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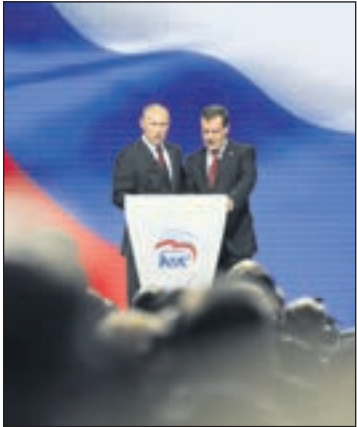
On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, November 28, 2011

Putin Pressure

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

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MOSCOW – United Russia, the country's governing party, formally nominated Vladimir V. Putin as its presidential candidate on Sunday as an estimated 11,000 delegates, waved flags, snapped photographs and chanted "Russia! Russia!" at a sports stadium here.



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin speaks to delegates with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the United Russia Congress in Moscow, Nov. 27, 2011. Putin, who stepped down in 2008 after two presidential terms but kept his hold on power, was formally nominated by the United Russia party as its presidential candidate. (James Hill/The New York Times)

But while the authorities went to great lengths to portray a festive atmosphere and an aura of confidence and stability, polls show that support for United Russia is eroding, and the party seems to be at risk of losing its two-thirds majority in next Sunday's parliamentary elections.

Continued on Page 3

Assad Abandoned



Unprecedented step: Arab League sanctions Syria

Syrian army officers stand next to the coffins of 17 army members, including six elite pilots and four technical officers who the Military said were killed in an ambush last week during their funeral procession, in Homs province, Syria, on Sunday Nov. 27, 2011. In an unprecedented move against an Arab nation, the Arab League on Sunday approved economic sanctions on Syria to pressure Damascus to end its deadly suppression of an 8-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad.

(AP Photo/Bassem Tellawi)
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Republican Latinos face queries on immigrant past

RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez is forced to research and clarify her late grandfather's immigration status.

Marco Rubio, Florida's Republican U.S. Senator, is accused of embellishing his family's immigrant story. A Republican congressional candidate in California puts on his website that he is the great-grandson of an illegal immigrant. As more Latino Republicans seek and win elected office, their families' backgrounds are facing increased scrutiny from some Latino activists, a re-

action experts say is a result of Latino Republicans' conservative views on immigration. It's a new phenomenon that experts say Latino Democrats rarely faced, and could be a recurring feature in elections as the Republican Party seeks to recruit more Latino candidates.

"It's a trend and we are seeing more of it," said Alfonso Aguilar, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles.

For years, most Latino elected officials were largely Democrats, except in Florida where Cuban Americans tended to vote

Republican. But recently, a new generation of Latino Republicans has won seats in Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, California and even Idaho. Those politicians have come under fire from some Latino activists for pushing for laws targeting illegal immigrants and for opposing efforts for comprehensive immigration reform — views that are in line with most Republicans. And the immigrant advocates are pointing to the Republican Latino elected leaders' own family histories in an effort to paint them as hypocrites. Ignacio Garcia, a history professor at Brigham Young University, said it comes from a



long tradition by liberal activists of portraying Latino Republicans as "vendidos," or sellouts, since the major-

Susana Martinez speaks with media in Las Cruces, N.M. As numbers grow, GOP Latino leaders facing questions of own families' immigrant past. More Latino Republicans are seeking and winning elected office and their families' background are becoming under increased scrutiny from some liberal Latino activists. Experts say it's a reaction to Latino Republicans' conservative views on immigration, and the scrutiny into their background is a new phenomenon that Latino Democrats rarely faced.

(AP Photo)

Son answered Ohio ad to provide for boys

ANDY BROWNFIELD

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The father of a man found dead after answering a

Craigslist online help-wanted ad said Sunday his son sought the job in order to better provide for his three boys. Timothy Kern, 47, of



Barb Daily, sister of Timothy Kern, speaks of her bother in the Massillon, Ohio house of their father, Jack Kern, back left. At right his Ellen's mother, Ellen Kern. Timothy Kern's vehicle was recovered from a Italo's Pizza parking lot in nearby Canton, Ohio. Kern has been missing for over a week after responding to a Craigslist help wanted ad. He is believed to be the third victim of a be linked to the employment robbery scheme.

(AP Photo/The Repository, Scott Heckel)

Massillon, Ohio, was found dead Friday, buried near an Akron, Ohio, shopping mall. The Summit County Medical Examiner's office said he was shot in the head.

Kern's father, Jack Kern, told The Associated Press on Sunday that his son was employed "here and there" and responded to the ad for a farmhand job because he wanted the best for his own sons, ages 17, 18, and 28.

Jack Kern said the ad offered \$300 a week to tend more than 680 acres (275 hectares), similar to an ad on the Craigslist website that police say lured another man to his death.

"That's all he (Timothy) wanted — to give his kids a better life," Jack Kern said. "This job seemed like a

great opportunity. He was really upbeat about the whole thing."

Authorities say a Craigslist ad was used to lure Norfolk, Virginia, resident David Pauley, 51, to Ohio, apparently with the intent of robbing him. Pauley was found dead in a rural area of Noble County, 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of Akron. A South Carolina man also answered the ad and was shot Nov. 6 before escaping, police say. Two suspects are in custody and a judge has issued a gag order in the case. A third body was found hours after Kern's not far from where Pauley's was buried in a hand-dug grave. That person has not been identified and authorities are not saying whether the three deaths are linked. □

ity of Latino voters tend to vote Democratic.

For example, Martinez tried twice in the New Mexico state legislature to overturn a state law that allows illegal immigrants to obtain state driver's licenses. Then earlier this year, various media outlets reported that a grandfather of Martinez may have been an illegal immigrant. The reports sparked immigrant advocates to protests outside the state Capitol with poster-size photos of Martinez on drivers' licenses. □

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Russia's Putin begins new bid for presidency

Continued from Front

In his speech accepting the nomination, however, Putin voiced no particular concern, and he offered no surprises – no bold policy proposals or dramatic political announcements that might serve as a rallying cry or galvanize voters. Instead, Putin, who was president from 2000 until 2008 and is now prime minister, suggested that it was natural for Russians to be frustrated with the incumbent party, and that many of them might be forgetting Russia's turbulent history. He said his government's performance, particularly during the financial crisis of 2008, proved that it was far superior to its predecessors and deserved the people's continued support.

"When a regular person has to deal with financial problems or some other problems in his day-to-day life, when he faces corruption and other small problems, he doesn't remember the massive problems," Putin said, referring to the collapse of the Soviet Union and to the economic turmoil of the 1990s.

"The indignation that person has is usually turned against the current authority." In 2008, "for the first time over the past 20 years, the authorities showed themselves as competent in dealing with economic

turmoil," and, Putin said, "that was done with the support of the United Russia Party.

"This gives me the right," he continued, "to say we are better than anyone else, and that we know better what needs to be done at the new stage of development of the Russian Federation."

Putin is only at the midpoint of what could be 24 years as Russia's pre-eminent political figure.

"We submit Mr. Putin as our presidential candidate," Medvedev said in an introductory speech. "By doing so we officially define our political strategy not just for a short-term period but for a long term." Putin, in his

education system; strengthening the military; and reducing the economy's dependence on oil revenues. And he sought to suggest that even after a dozen years in power, the work had just begun. "We have gone through a very important stage of restoring Russia; we have laid a foundation for stable develop-

be assured of the votes needed to make constitutional changes – a lever of power that gives the current administration unfettered control.

At one point, Putin paused to address the chants in the audience. "When I hear people shout out 'Russia,'" he said. "I think the entire audience should do that." That brought the convention to its feet and louder chants, drawing out three syllables "Ro-see-ya! Ro-see-ya."

In response, Putin pounded his fist on the podium.

Putin and Medvedev appeared wearing nearly identical outfits of a dark suit, white shirt and dark red tie. When Putin finished his remarks, he returned to his seat in the audience and gave Medvedev a polite hug. Both Medvedev and Putin sought to stress that there was no viable option to United Russia.

"Is there any other alternative political or managerial team that is ready to withstand global shockwaves?" Medvedev asked. "There is no such team except for United Russia."

Putin said the choice should be obvious. "I hope that every person who is independent-thinking, who wants a better future for himself and his children and the whole of our country will support the United Russia Party in the State Duma elections." □



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin speaks to delegates at the United Russia Congress in Moscow, Nov. 27, 2011. Putin, who stepped down in 2008 after two presidential terms but kept his hold on power, was formally nominated by the United Russia party as its presidential candidate. (James Hill/The New York Times)

The Russian public does not seem as certain.

Weariness and fatigue seem to have grown among many voters since September, when Putin announced plans to swap posts with President Dmitry A. Medvedev. The move created the possibility that

remarks, nodded to many of the political challenges that Russia faces: improving the rule of law; growing the middle class; reversing a decline in population; raising the standard of living, particularly outside the major cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg; revitalizing the

ment of the country," Putin said. "Our task now is to use this foundation to build a strong, prosperous and wealthy Russia, a Russia of the 21st century."

Should United Russia fail to win back a two-thirds parliamentary majority in the Duma, it would no longer

Powerful New Hampshire backing for Gingrich

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich got a huge boost Sunday when New Hampshire's biggest newspaper and most influential conservative voice endorsed his candidacy over Mitt Romney who — polls shows — is leading in the state that holds the country's first nominating election in just six weeks. The New Hampshire Union Leader sided with Gingrich despite results of last week's WMUR-University of New Hampshire Granite State poll that showed Romney with 42 percent support among likely Republican primary voters in New Hampshire. Gingrich followed with 15 percent. Eight Republicans are battling for the party's nomination to challenge President Barack Obama in the November 2012 election. The newspaper in small-state New Hampshire is a powerful voice in the Republican nominating process. Four years ago, it threw its support to Sen.



Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich signs a copy of his book "A Nation Like No Other" as he greets supporters during a book signing event at Books-A-Million in Naples, Fla.

(AP Photo/Erik Kellar)

John McCain's bid and used its Page One opinion columns and editorials to boost him — and criticize Romney. Since then, Romney has worked hard to court Union Leader Publisher Joe McQuaid, who often publishes columns on the newspaper's front page under his signature. In endorsing Gingrich, the publication issued a not-so-discreet rebuke of Romney, who is saddled with a reputation for changing positions on important issues to

satisfy the nation's shifting political winds.

"We would rather back someone with whom we may sometimes disagree than one who tells us what he thinks we want to hear," the newspaper said in explaining its support for Gingrich despite less than full support for all of his po-

sitions. New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary election takes place on Jan. 10, a week after Iowa holds its statewide caucuses, small gatherings of voters, who voice their support for a candidate. Both selection processes traditionally launch the state-by-state contests to choose delegates to each party's national nominating convention.

Polling in Iowa found that 60 percent of Republicans who plan to participate in the caucuses are willing to change their minds and 10 percent are fully undecided. The Bloomberg News survey showed a four-way race: Clustered at the top were Romney, Gingrich, businessman Herman Cain and Texas Rep. Ron Paul, candidates whose positions, backgrounds and personalities run the gamut. Languishing far behind were Texas Gov. Rick Perry

and Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, who at one point enjoyed huge bursts of support.

Jon Huntsman, a former Utah governor, the most moderate of the eight Republicans and Obama's former ambassador to China, has failed to gain more than single-digit backing nationally. He has, however, focused his campaign on the New Hampshire primary, where he had 8 percent backing in the respected Granite State poll. The libertarian-leaning Paul posted 12 percent support. In backing Gingrich, the Union Leader said: "We don't back candidates based on popularity polls or big-shot backers. We look for conservatives of courage and conviction who are independent-minded, grounded in their core beliefs about this nation and its people, and best equipped for the job." □

Retailers have a robust start to holiday season

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

More Americans hunted for bargains this weekend than ever before as retailers lured them online and into stores with big discounts and an earlier-than-usual start to the holiday shopping season.

A record 226 million shoppers visited stores and websites during the four-day holiday weekend starting on Thursday, the Thanksgiving Day holiday, up from 212 million last year, according to early estimates by the National Retail Federation released on Sunday. Americans spent more, too: The average holiday shopper spent \$398.62 over the weekend, up from \$365.34 a year ago.

Art and Anna Destrada from Port Chester, New York, were among the holiday shoppers. They started shopping on Thanksgiving evening at a Walmart store, went to various malls in New Jersey on Friday, and got some deals at Macy's on Saturday. They



Customers, showing up early to stand in line, are allowed into Target in Horn Lake, Miss. The official kickoff to the holiday shopping season underscored a big challenge to retailers: shoppers will only come out when they believe they're getting a big discount. Stores' own version of the Super Bowl got off to a robust start, helped by early store openings and heavy price cutting. But many analysts worry that the heavy marketing hype that pulled in the crowds will steal some thunder from the rest of the season. (AP photo/The Commercial Appeal. Stan Carroll, File)

spent a total of \$2,000 on gifts for themselves and others, including a Wii videogame console, clothing and jewelry.

"We've saved for Christmas and put away money all year," said Anna Destrada, 49. "We stayed within our means so we can make a few splurges."

The results for the first holiday shopping weekend show that retailers' efforts to lure shoppers during the weak economy are working. Some like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and J.C. Penney have been making a stronger push online to better compete with the likes of rival Amazon.com. □

A vibrant, colorful advertisement for The Caribbean Palm Restaurant. The background is a mix of pink, purple, and yellow. At the top, it says "The Caribbean Palm Restaurant" and "The Coco Rico in Motion". Below that, in large, bold, yellow letters, it says "PROUDLY PRESENT ON MONDAY NIGHTS OUR CARNAVAL DINNER SHOW". A central image shows a woman in a traditional Caribbean carnival costume, including a yellow and black mask and a feathered headdress. To the right of the woman, the price "\$39.95" is prominently displayed. Below the price, it says "The CARIBBEAN PALM" and "Dinner Show Starts @ 7:00pm". At the bottom left, it lists "3 Course Dinner Menu Incl. 1 Glass of Wine" and "45 min. Spectacular Carnival Show". At the bottom right, it says "Limited seats available Reservation Required". At the very bottom, a black banner with white text reads "LOCATED AT CARIBBEAN PALM VILLAGE RESORT TEL: 586-0740".



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Occupy LA deadline comes, many won't go

ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The protesters whose tents line the lawn of Los Angeles City Hall made it clear that they received the eviction notice issued by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Whether they'll heed it is much less certain.

With hours left before the Monday at 12:01 a.m. deadline the mayor and the police chief gave for Occupy LA, very few of the occupiers were packing, and many were instead making plans for what to do when they stay.

Some handed out signs Saturday mocked up to look like the city's notices to vacate, advertising a Monday morning "eviction block party."

Dozens attended a teach-in on resistance tactics, including how to stay safe in the face of rubber bullets, tear gas canisters and pepper spray.



An eviction notice sign posted at the Occupy LA encampment on the grounds of Los Angeles City Hall. The mayor and police chief have given protesters a deadline of 12:01 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28 to vacate.

(AP Photo/Andrew Dalton)

Police gave few specifics about what tactics they would use if protesters ignored the deadline.

Chief Charlie Beck said at Friday's news conference that officers would definitely not be sweeping through the camp and arresting everyone just after midnight. In an interview with the Los

Angeles Times published Sunday, Beck said that despite the lack of confrontations in the camp's two-month run, he's realistic about what might happen. "I have no illusions that everybody is going to leave," Beck said. "We anticipate that we will have to make arrests."

But he added, "We certainly will not be the first ones to apply force."

Villaraigosa announced Friday that despite his sympathy for the protesters' cause, it was time for the camp of nearly 500 tents to leave for the sake of public health and safety.

The mayor said the movement is at a "crossroads," and it must "move from holding a particular patch of park to spreading the message of economic jus-

tice."

But occupiers showed no signs of giving up the patch of park too easily.

Will Picard, who sat Saturday in a tent amid his artwork with a "notice of eviction" sign posted outside, said the main organizers and most occupiers he knows intend to stay.

"Their plan is to resist the closure of this encampment and if that means getting arrested so be it," Picard said. □

US anti-slavery hub to reopen after restoration

BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Step into the sanctuary of the African Meeting House and you will walk on the same ancient floorboards where Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison and other prominent abolitionists railed against slavery in the 19th century, and where free black men gathered to shape the famed 54th Massachusetts Civil War regiment.

Following a painstaking, \$9 million restoration, the nation's oldest black church building is set to reopen to the public early next month. Beverly Morgan-Welch, who has spent more than a decade spearheading the project, calls the three-story brick building the most important African American

historic landmark in the U.S. "This space has the echo of so many of the greats of their time ... who were trying to figure out a way to end slavery," said Morgan-Welch, executive director of the Museum of African American History.

Built in 1806 at a cost of \$7,700, the meeting house sits on a quiet side street in Boston's upscale Beacon Hill neighborhood, in the shadow of the Massachusetts Statehouse and nestled among handsome brownstones and exclusive private residences. Long before modern office towers would hold sway, the building could be seen all the way from the city's bustling waterfront, a "beacon on a hill" for black people longing for freedom, Morgan-Welch said. It was one

among a series of firsts for Boston's vibrant black community, which by that time had already formed the young nation's first black masonic order, an African Benevolent Society and an African school. Though designed as a place for worship, education, social gatherings and cultural events — "The Marriage of Figaro" was once performed there — it secured a place in history by becoming a headquarters of sorts for America's anti-slavery movement. "They prayed, they sang, they had songs like 'I'm an abolitionist' put to the words of 'Auld Lang Syne,'" said Morgan-Welch, who described congregants as coming from every walk of life, including business owners, craftsmen, servants and seafarers. □

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US student gives more details on arrest in Cairo

KELLY DASCHLE
Associated Press

An American student arrested with two others during protests in Cairo said they were threatened with guns, hit and forced to lay for hours in a near fetal position in the dark with their hands behind their backs. "They said if we moved at all, even an inch, they would shoot us. They were behind us with guns," said Derrik Sweeney, a 19-year-old Georgetown University student from Jefferson City, Missouri.

The students flew home Saturday two days after an Egyptian court ordered



Derrik Sweeney, 19, of Jefferson City, Mo., smiles along side his mother, Joy Sweeney, left, after arriving at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011, in St. Louis. Sweeney and two other American students were arrested on the roof of a university building near Tahrir Square in Cairo last Sunday, accused of throwing firebombs at security forces fighting with protesters. On Thursday, a court ordered the three to be released. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

them released. The three had been spending the semester studying abroad at American University in Cairo, which is near Tahrir Square, where a new wave of protests began more than a week ago.

Protesters have been calling for Egypt's military leaders to hand power back to a civilian government before the landmark parliamentary elections scheduled to start Monday. At least 43 protesters have been killed since Nov. 19 and 2,000 wounded, most of them in Cairo.

Sweeney spoke to The Associated Press by tele-

phone after family greeted him at the airport in St. Louis and then again Sunday by Skype.

He said the evening of his arrest on Nov. 20 started peacefully in the square, which was "abuzz with ideas of democracy and freedom." He and other students later wandered through the streets, ending up in a large group of protesters gathered outside the Interior Ministry.

"There were two tanks and a lot of policemen with weapons, and while these protesters were yelling and a lot of chants, and I think some of them in front of us might have been throwing stones," he said. "Eventually the police shot back something."

The students fled to an area that seemed calmer. There, they were approached by four or five "plainclothes Egyptians" who offered to lead them to safety, Sweeney said. Instead, they found themselves being taken into custody, beaten and forced to lay still in the dark for about six hours.

The night in detention was "probably the scariest night of my life ever," he said, adding, "I was not sure I was going to live."

Sweeney was arrested along with Luke Gates, a 21-year-old Indiana University student from Bloomington, Indiana, and Gregory Porter, a 19-year-old Drexel University student from Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Egyptian officials said they arrested the three on the roof of a university building and accused them of throwing firebombs at security forces fighting with protesters. □



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North Dakota oil boom creates camps of men

A.G SULZBERGER

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TIOGA, N.D. — As much as the drilling rigs that tower over this once placid corner of the prairie, the two communities springing up just outside of town testify to the galloping pace of growth here in oil country. They are called man camps — temporary housing compounds supporting the overwhelmingly male workforce flooding the region in search of refuge from a stormy economy. These two, Capital Lodge and Tioga Lodge, built on opposite sides of a highway, will have up to 3,700 residents, according to current plans. Confronted with the unusual problem of too many unfilled jobs and not enough empty beds to accommodate the new arrivals, North Dakota embraced the camps — typically made of low-slung, modular dormitory-style buildings — as the imperfect solution to keeping workers rested and oil flowing.

But now, even as the housing shortage worsens, towns like this one are denying new applications for the camps. In many places they have come to embody the danger of growing too big too fast, cluttering formerly idyllic vistas, straining utilities, overburdening emergency services and aggravating relatively novel problems like traffic jams, long lines and higher crime. The grumbling has escalated despite the huge influx of wealth from the boom, largely because it has become clear that growth is overwhelming ca-

capacity. Indeed, local leaders note incredulously, that a conference on regional infrastructure took place in Colorado last month because the region lacked the facilities to host its own event.

"We need a little time to catch our breath to figure out what resources we need in place before we keep expanding," said Ward Heidbreder, city coordinator in nearby Stanley, which has two camps. In recent weeks, Williams County, where thousands of previously approved camp beds have yet to be built, and Mountrail County, where one-third of the population is living in temporary housing, imposed moratoriums on man camp development. McKenzie County, where the growth had been particularly untamed thanks to the absence of any zoning rules, is even considering breaking with a century of tradition and requiring building permits.

Leaders in these communities say they will use the reprieve to draft new fees for the camps to support fire and ambulance services; write tighter rules, like background checks, for residents in these facilities; and require performance bonds to ensure that the modular buildings aren't simply abandoned whenever the boom turns bust. But the timeout also simply reflects lost patience.

"There is a testiness that's developed in this last year because it's so intense," said E. Ward Koeser, the longtime mayor of nearby

Williston, which with about 14,000 people is the largest city in the region.

Brian Lash, chief executive of Target Logistics, the largest operator of man camps, boasts that the company plans to house 1 percent of the state's population within a year, and supports the moratoriums. Target's camps, which rent directly to the drilling, hydraulic fracturing and trucking companies that employ most workers, have strict prohibitions on alcohol, firearms and unauthorized women. □



Workers dine at the Tioga Lodge, a temporary housing compound supporting the overwhelmingly male workforce flooding the region, or man camp, near Williston, N.D. workers rested and oil flowing.

(Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times)

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Unprecedented step: Arab League sanctions Syria

Continued from Front

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
MAAMOUN YOUSSEF
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In an unprecedented move against an Arab nation, the Arab League on Sunday approved economic sanctions on Syria to pressure Damascus to end its deadly suppression of an 8-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad. But even as world leaders abandon Assad, the regime has refused to ease a military assault on dissent that already has killed more than 3,500 people. On Sunday, Damascus slammed the sanctions as a betrayal of Arab solidarity and insisted a foreign conspiracy

was behind the revolt, all but assuring more bloodshed will follow.

The sanctions are among the clearest signs yet of the isolation Syria is suffering because of the crack-down. Damascus has long boasted of being a powerhouse of Arab nationalism, but Assad has been abandoned by some of his closest allies and now his Arab neighbors. The growing movement against his regime could transform some of the most enduring alliances in the Middle East and beyond. At a news conference in Cairo, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassim said 19 of the League's 22 member nations approved a series of tough punishments that



A Syrian immigrant shows a V-sign decorated as the revolutionary Syrian flag during a rally against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in front of the Syrian embassy in Sofia, on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011. More than 3,500 people have died in months of anti-government protests in Syria, according to the UN.
(AP Photo/Valentina Petrova)

include cutting off transactions with the Syrian central bank, halting Arab government funding for projects in Syria and freezing govern-

ment assets. Those sanctions are to take effect immediately. Other steps, including halting flights and imposing travel bans on

some, as-yet unnamed Syrian officials, will come later after a committee reviews them. "The Syrian people are being killed but we don't want this. Every Syrian official should not accept killing even one person," bin Jassim said. "Power is worth nothing while you stand as an enemy to your people." He added that the League aims to "to avoid any suffering for the Syrian people." Iraq and Lebanon — important trading partners for Syria — abstained from the vote, which came after Damascus missed an Arab League deadline to agree to allow hundreds of observers into the country as part of a peace deal Syria agreed to early this month to end the crisis. □

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Islamist party wins the most seats in Morocco

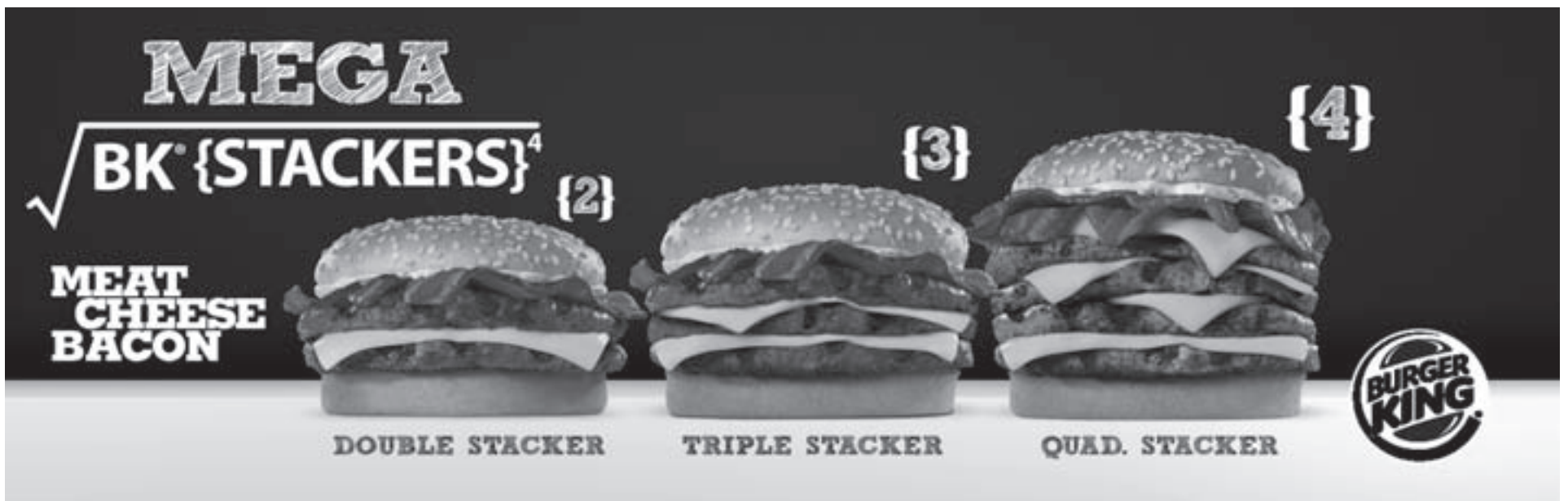


A Moroccan girl arrives with tea as Abdelilah Benkirane, the secretary general of Morocco's Islamist Justice and Development Party chats with Mustapha Moatassim, the secretary general of a small party (Al Badil Al Hadari) that Moroccan authorities banned on Feb. 20, 2008, after it became clear Benkirane's party is on track to become the largest party in Morocco's new parliament, at the Party headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, Sunday Nov. 27, 2011. Moroccans voted to elect a new parliament after the king brought forward elections in response to Arab Spring demonstrations over the past nine months.
(AP Photo/Abdeljalil Bounhar)

PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — An Islamist party won the most seats in Morocco's parliamentary elections and will now be chosen to lead the next government in the North African kingdom and close U.S. ally, according to final results released Sunday.

The Justice and Development Party won 107 seats in the 395-seat legislature following the nationwide vote two days earlier — almost twice as much as its nearest competitor. The king will now choose someone from the PJD — known by its French initials — to form a coalition out of the dozen parties making up the new parliament. "The victory of the PJD is an historic step towards democracy, this is a point of no return," party leader Abdelilah Benkirane said at packed news conference Sunday night. □



Afghan officials:

Fire from Pakistan led to attack



Pakistani protesters burn representation of U. S. flag to condemn NATO helicopters attacks on Pakistani troops, in Multan, Pakistan on Sunday, Nov 27, 2011. Pakistan on Saturday accused NATO helicopters and fighter jets of firing on two army checkpoints in the country's northwest and killing 24 soldiers. Islamabad retaliated by closing the border crossings used by the international coalition to supply its troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Khalid Tanveer)

RAHIM FAIEZ
SEBASTIAN ABBOT
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan officials claimed Sunday that Afghan and NATO forces were retaliating for gunfire from two Pakistani army bases when they called in airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, adding a layer of complexity to episode that has further strained Pakistan's ties with the United States. The account challenged Pakistan's claim that the strikes were unprovoked. The attack Saturday near the Afghan-Pakistani border aroused popular anger

in Pakistan and added tension to the U.S.-Pakistani relationship, which has been under pressure since the secret U.S. raid inside Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden in May. Pakistan has closed its western border to trucks delivering supplies to coalition troops in Afghanistan, demanded that the U.S. abandon an air base inside Pakistan and said it will review its cooperation with the U.S. and NATO. A complete breakdown in the relationship between the United States and Pakistan is considered unlikely. Pakistan relies on billions

of dollars in American aid, and the U.S. needs Pakistan to push Afghan insurgents to participate in peace talks.

Afghanistan's assertions about the attack muddy the efforts to determine what happened. The Afghan officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said it was unclear who fired on Afghan and NATO forces, which were

conducting a joint operation before dawn Saturday. They said the fire came from the direction of the two Pakistani army posts along the border that were later hit in the airstrikes. NATO has said it is investigating, but it has not questioned the Pakistani claim that 24 soldiers were killed. All airstrikes are approved at a higher command level than the troops on the ground. Secretary-General

Anders Fogh Rasmussen offered his deepest condolences and said the coalition was committed to working with Pakistan to "avoid such tragedies in the future."

"We have a joint interest in the fight against cross-border terrorism and in ensuring that Afghanistan does not once again become a safe-haven for terrorists," Rasmussen said in Brussels. □



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Evangelical leader rises in Brazil's culture wars

SIMON ROMERO

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FORTALEZA, Brazil — Silas Malafaia's books, which sell in the millions in Brazil, have titles like "How to Defeat Satan's Strategies" and "Lessons of a Winner." The Gulfstream private jet in which he flies has "Favor of God," in English, inscribed on its body.

As a television evangelist, Malafaia reaches viewers in dozens of countries, including the U.S., where Daystar and Trinity Broadcasting Network broadcast his overdubbed sermons. Over 30 years, Malafaia, 53, has assembled thriving churches and enterprises around his Pentecostal preaching. Still, he might have garnered little attention beyond his own followers had he not waded into Brazil's version of the culture wars. After all, Brazil has evangelical leaders who command larger empires, like Edir Macedo, whose Universal Church of the Kingdom of God controls Rede Record, one



Followers pray along with Silas Malafaia, a television evangelist, during one of his self-described "crusades," an event mixing scripture and song, in Fortaleza, Brazil. Malafaia has recently attracted the most attention with his pointed verbal attacks on leaders of Brazil's movement for gay rights and proponents of abortion rights.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

of Brazil's biggest television networks. Others, like Romildo Ribeiro Soares, of the International Church of God's Grace, are known for greater missionary zeal. But it is Malafaia who has recently attracted the most attention, with his pointed verbal attacks on a broad array of foes, including the leaders of Brazil's movement for gay rights, propo-

nents of abortion rights and supporters of marijuana decriminalization.

"I'm the public enemy No. 1 of the gay movement in Brazil," Malafaia said in an interview this month here in Fortaleza, a city in Brazil's northeast where he came to lead one of his self-described "crusades," an event mixing scripture and song in front of about

200,000 people. Tears flowed down the faces of some of the impassioned attendees, while others danced to the performances that served as his opening act.

Before ascending to the pulpit, he described how coveted he had become on television talk shows as a sparring partner with gay leaders. But that is only a small part of his repertoire, and television is just one of many media at Malafaia's disposal. On Twitter, he has nearly a quarter of a million followers, and in videos distributed on YouTube, he lambastes not only liberal foes but also journalists and rival evangelical leaders. Not surprisingly, his rising prominence has made him the source of both admiration and unease.

He mobilized thousands to march in the capital, Brasilia, this year against a bill aimed at expanding anti-discrimination legislation to include sexual orientation. "He's like Pat Robertson in the sense of being a pioneer in moving Brazil's evangelical right into the national political realm," said Andrew Chesnut, an expert on Latin American religions at Virginia Commonwealth University, comparing Malafaia to the conservative American television evangelist. □

Jamaica chief says files not missing

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaica's transportation chief on Sunday dismissed opposition allegations that files related to a stalled \$400 million infrastructure program have disappeared from a government agency's computer system.

Transport Minister Mike Henry asserted in a Sunday statement that the claims are part of a series of "panic-driven escapades" by the opposition to paint the Jamaica Labor Party's government in a negative light ahead of looming elections.

The opposition People's National Party has alleged that computer files related to a troubled roadwork program have gone missing from the National Works Agency, which oversaw the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Program, a five-year initiative launched in 2010 to stimulate economic growth and upgrade the country's long-rutted roadways.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has promised an independent review of the sprawling \$400 million program mostly funded with loans from China that has stalled under a cloud of alleged mismanagement. □

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Negotiator says Belgian budget meets EU demands



From left to right, Benoit Lutgen, head of Belgium's French-speaking Christian Democrat party (CDH), Alexander De Croo, head of Belgium's Flemish liberal party (Open VLD), Laurette Onkelinx, member of Belgium's French-speaking Socialists (PS), Elio Di Rupo, head of Belgium's French-speaking Socialists (PS), Wouter Beke, head of Belgium's Flemish Christian Democrat party (CD&V), Charles Michel, head of Belgium's French-speaking Liberal Party (MR) and Bruno Tobback, head of Belgium's Flemish Socialist Party (sp.a) stand for a group photo during a media conference at the Belgian Federal Parliament in Brussels on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

RAF CASERT
Associated Press
BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium's chief negotiator said Sunday the 2012 budget that he clinched after a world record government stalemate will meet the demands of the European Union and hoped it would

calm nervous markets. EU monetary affairs chief Olli Rehn welcomed the announcement of the breakthrough and said EU officials would soon review the budget text to see if it meets his recommendations of fiscal rigor and increased competitiveness.

Elio Di Rupo said that next year's budget will have a deficit of 2.8 percent of GDP to remain within the EU target. He called the €11.3 billion (\$14.95 billion) in austerity measures a step toward assuring a balanced budget in 2015 and the toughest measures taken by the nation in some 70 years. Di Rupo, a French-speaking Socialist, is now expected to lead a grand coalition of socialists, Christian democrats and liberals, each split into Dutch- and French-speaking parties.

"We hope to get a government in the coming week. We still have to work on several issues and hope to conclude within the shortest time possible," Di Rupo told a news conference. Belgium has had only a caretaker government since June 13, 2010, as a series of negotiators tried and failed to bridge the divide between the country's 6.5 million Dutch-speakers and 4.5 million French-speakers. But the talks were given much greater urgency late Friday when Standard &

Poor's downgraded Belgium's credit rating, potentially leading to increasing interest rates and a downward financial spiral. Di Rupo led a 19-hour negotiating session that finally provided the breakthrough over the weekend, on day 532 of the government deadlock. "Now we have to finish our work fast to have a fully functioning government as soon as possible," Di Rupo said. "Each and everyone will have to do a lot to get out the crisis." □

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How much crazier can Black Friday get?

CHRIS HAWLEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Pepper-sprayed customers, smash-and-grab looters and bloody scenes in the shopping aisles. How did Black Friday devolve into this? As reports of shopping-related violence rolled in this week from Los Angeles to New York, experts say a volatile mix of desperate retailers and cutthroat marketing has hyped the traditional post-Thanksgiving holiday sales to increasingly frenzied levels. With stores opening earlier, bargain-obsessed shoppers of-

ten are sleep-deprived and short-tempered. Arriving in darkness, they also find themselves vulnerable to savvy parking-lot muggers. Add in the online-coupon phenomenon, which feeds the psychological hunger for finding impossible bargains, and you've got a recipe for trouble, said Theresa Williams, a marketing professor at Indiana University. "These are people who should know better and have enough stuff already," Williams said. "What's going to be next year, everybody getting

Tasered?"

Across the country on Thursday and Friday, there were signs that tensions had ratcheted up a notch or two, with violence resulting in several instances.

A woman turned herself in to police after allegedly pepper-spraying 20 other customers at a Los Angeles-area Walmart on Thursday in what investigators said was an attempt to get at a crate of Xbox video game consoles. In Kinston, North Carolina, a security guard also pepper-sprayed customers seeking electronics before the start of a midnight sale.

In New York, crowds reportedly looted a clothing store in lower Manhattan's Soho district. In Arizona, at a Walmart near Phoenix, a man was bloodied while being subdued by police officer on suspicion of shoplifting a video game. There was a shooting outside a store in San Leandro, California, shots fired at a mall in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and a stabbing outside a store in Sacramento, New York. "The difference this year is that instead of a nice sweater you need a bullet proof vest and goggles," said Betty Thomas, 52, who was shopping Saturday with her sisters and a niece at Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh, North Carolina. The wave of violence revived memories of the 2008 Black Friday stampede that killed an employee and put a pregnant woman in the hospital at a Walmart on New York's Long Island. Walmart spokesman Greg



Crowds of Black Friday shoppers attempt to push their way through security staff moments after the doors opened outside of Best Buy at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., early Friday Nov. 25, 2011. Several retailers at the Mall, including Best Buy, opened their doors to bargain hunters at midnight Thursday. (AP Photo/The Minnesota Daily, Mark Vancleave)

Rossiter said Black Friday 2011 was safe at most of its nearly 4,000 U.S. stores despite "a few unfortunate incidents." Black Friday — named that because it puts retailers "in the black" — has become more intense as companies compete for customers in a weak economy, said Jacob Jacoby, an expert on consumer behavior at New York University. The idea of luring in customers with a few "doorbuster" deals has long been a staple of the post-Thanksgiving sales. But now stores are opening earlier, and those deals are getting more extreme, he said. "There's an awful lot of psychology going on here," Jacoby said. "There's the notion of scarcity — when something's scarce it's more valued. And a resource that can be very scarce is time: If you don't get there in time, it's going to be gone." There's also a new factor, Williams said: the rise

of coupon websites like Groupon and LivingSocial, the online equivalents of doorbusters, which usually deliver a single, one-day offer with savings of up to 80 percent on museum tickets, photo portraits, yoga classes and the like.

The services encourage impulse buying and an obsession with bargains, Williams said, while also getting businesses hooked on quick infusions of customers.

"The whole notion of getting a deal, that's all we've seen for the last two years," Williams said. "It's about stimulating consumers' quick reactions. How do we get their attention quickly? How do we create cash flow for today?"

To grab customers first, some stores are opening late on Thanksgiving Day, turning bargain-hunting from an early-morning activity into an all-night slog, said Ed Fox, a marketing professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. □

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Playa Linda provides a thanksgiving for its talented, long-time employees

PALM BEACH - This Thanksgiving, the Playa Linda Beach Resort celebrated the 245 years of hospitality experience represented among its talented, long time employees. A total of twenty one Playa Linda employees achieved a

milestone anniversary with the resort this year. The entire group, representing 5-, 10-, 15-, 20- and even 25-year employees, recently enjoyed a delicious, three-course Thanksgiving lunch, served at Carambola Restaurant at Paradise Beach

Villas. "There is no more appropriate day to celebrate our valued employees than Thanksgiving, in providing a special 'thank you' for their year-round contributions, service and smiles," remarked Playa Linda General Manager Jan van Nes. "A significant number of employees, representing 20% of our workforce, are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year, which speaks volumes on the lasting, satisfying relationship employees share with the resort and resort guests." Among the honorees are 25-year employees, Housekeeping's Victorine "Toya" Lopez and Alvaro Gonzalez, from Membership Services and Accounting. Alvaro looks back on his years at the resort and takes pride in meeting the challenges of his evolving role, which recently incorporated sales among his many duties. "I enjoy working at the resort, and although not necessarily easy, it remains interesting. There are also benefits in working with



a strong, stable company, such as the Playa Linda," he comments. Other honorees include 20-year employees, Tommy Orbillo, from Grounds, and from Housekeeping, Marina Benjamin and Maira Trimon. With the resort for fifteen years are Lourdes Croes-Bello, from the Front Office, and Prudencio Maduro, from Grounds. Among 10-year employees are Mian-gely Faro from Membership Services and Accounting, Evelina Diaz from the Front Office, Kirk McKenzie from Grounds, Belquis Fransisco from Housekeeping and the Maintenance Department's Peter van Grinsven, Pedro Ogando and Gerald Naar. Five-year employees include Loss & Prevention team members Kenneth Bouwman, Garvin Albertus and Rubert Martis, from the Maintenance Department: Hubert Ridderstaat; from Grounds: Luders Cadevil; from Activities: Mignon Aal; and from Housekeeping:

Maria E. Morillo. Twenty-five year employee Toya Lopez best sums up the reason why she remains with the Playa Linda by emphasizing the pleasant work environment maintained at the resort. "I appreciate the many courses that are available to me as well as in the everyday experience of coming to work with people who are like family to me," she explains. Throughout the year, employees who complete milestone anniversaries with the resort are provided the traditional envelop on the day of their original hire. However, also sharing an anniversary meal together has become an important, annual tradition. At the conclusion of a very enjoyable Thanksgiving meal, each employee marking an anniversary received a souvenir framed portrait and a crystal plaque to help further commemorate their years of service with the Playa Linda. □

Mr.Koop Werner wins \$3003,- at the Aura Casino!

PALM BEACH

- Mr.Koop discovered his lucky streak at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machines! He won a total amount of \$3003,- in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win". Mr.Koop is enjoying a wonderful vacation with his family. They've been coming to Aruba for 7 years, and are staying in The Occidental Grand Hotel.

The management and staff of the Aura Casino want to wish Mr.Koop congratulations on his great win on the slot-machine "Power Pay" The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach. Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners! □



Holiday Inn Resort Aruba Donates 20,000 Florin!



Last Wednesday during a general luncheon held for the employees in the Las Palmas Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, the Hotel donated various checks to several foundations. The donated sum generated in a total of Afls.20,000, accumulated

during one year, was a monthly contribution where each employee participated in. The choice of the 4 foundation who received each Afl.5000 was also choice of the employees. The chosen foundations are: 1. SAMBA 2. Koningin Wilhelmina Kankerfonds 3.

Fundacion pa nos Comunidad and 4. Fundacion Alzheimer Aruba Holiday Inn Resort Aruba and its employees are very proud to be able to contribute once more with the well-being of our community. □

Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till

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Romar Trading delights foodies with South

ORANJESTAD -- The tasting menu served at La Bodega was inspired by South African food traditions, incorporating eclectic elements from the exotic continent into a delightful evening presented by Romar Trading.

Working his magic a la minute, in the small yet efficient kitchen, and cooking a delicious meal for 30 wine-lovers, Monrick Croes, of the Art of Dining Service Management.

Wine Artists Clive Faustin and Monique Bower shared the hosting of this very congenial party, featuring Shrimp Kebab South African Style, as an appetizer, a Creamy Mushroom Soup Laced with Curry, and as main course Pork-Loin Drizzled with Port Reduction Sauce, paired with Yellow Rice with Raisins and Tomato Relish. For dessert, Pumpkin Tuile with Vanilla Ice Cream and Hot Chocolate Fudge provided the perfect last touch.

The wines, all South African, were introduced with Faustin's signature flair and knowledge, Two Oceans, 2010 Chardonnay and Two Oceans 2009, Sauvignon Blanc with the appetizer and soup, and Rust En Verde Stellenbosch 2006 Shiraz, and 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, in between and with the main course.

All invitees were received upon arrival with a chilled flute of bubbly by Concha Y Toro, Castillero del Diablo Brut Reserva, while the tasting concluded with Concha Y Toro, Late Harvest, Sauvignon Blanc. Presented each end of the month by Romar Trading this special pairing of international food and wines enjoys a large following, and with limited seating the affair gets sold out each time. Faustin reports that on the last Friday of 2011, Champagne will be tasted and paired with some spectacular dishes. □



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Aaron Offord and Amy Lynn Levesque host a chic welcome reception



PALM BEACH – The soon to be married Canadian couple hosted a congenial cocktail party reception at the newly refreshed

Mira Solo lounge with their friends and family members in attendance. Having overcome a considerable health challenge,

Aaron popped the question, overjoyed as his dream of a long time was coming true. The lovebirds then decided

to tie the knot in Aruba, following some web research and Trip Advisor recommendations! They will be married here

Thursday! May you always be healthy and happy, and may you get to come back to the island on all following anniversaries☐

FedEx delivers record 6th ATP Finals title

Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts as he celebrates winning the ATP World Tour singles final against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France in the O2 arena in London, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

Tentative deal moves the NBA lockout closer to end

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With a tentative labor agreement in place, National Basketball Association owners and union officials went back to work Saturday, relaying details of the deal with hopes of cementing it quickly.

After a 149-day lockout that ultimately will cost the league approximately a half-billion dollars in losses, a marathon bargaining session produced a handshake agreement earlier in the day — actually, just a few hours before daybreak. President Barack Obama gave a thumbs-up when told about the tentative settlement after he finished playing basketball at Fort McNair in Washington on Saturday morning.

Commissioner David Stern still must sell his owners on an agreement that could change the way they do business. And the players, looking beat and beaten, face a tougher healing process in approving a pact that significantly limits their earnings.

But considering everything owners sought when these negotiations opened with a contentious meeting at the All-Star break in February 2010, perhaps they will feel relieved they got as much as they did.

Players' association executives Derek Fisher and Maurice Evans hardly looked enthused about the agreement as they sat next to executive director Billy Hunter

Continued on Page 17

CAM SANDWICH

Colts 0-11 after 27-19 loss to Panthers

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, center, loses his helmet as he is tackled by Indianapolis Colts linebacker Ernie Sims, top, and middle linebacker Pat Angerer during the first quarter of an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

Associated Press
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LeBron, other NBA stars cancel game in Akron

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

The University of Akron says the charity game featuring LeBron James and other NBA stars has been canceled.

A school spokesman said Sunday that the "Homecoming Tour" game with James, Chris Paul, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony scheduled for Dec. 1 at Rhodes Arena will not take place. He expects the tour sponsor, Google Plus, to send out an official release later.

James' spokesman did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

With the NBA reaching a tentative labor agreement with players to end the 149-day lockout on Saturday, training camps could open as early as Dec. 9.

James had been set to open the tour in his hometown before going to New Orleans, Chicago and East Rutherford, N.J. Proceeds from the tour were to benefit the four headlining players' charitable foundations. It is not known if the other



NBA players, from right, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony stand on the sideline before the NCAA college football game between Oregon and Southern California in Eugene, Ore., Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011. The three and other NBA players were on hand to watch the game.

Associated Press

NBA

Continued from previous Page

on the same side of a conference table with Stern, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver and Spurs owner Peter Holt, the chairman of the league's labor relations committee.

But at least they weren't sitting in a courtroom, where they appeared headed less than two weeks earlier. Just 12 days after talks broke down, Stern and Hunter appeared together after 3 a.m. Saturday to announce the 10-year deal, with either side able to opt out after the sixth year. It leaves the NBA with its second shortened season (the first was the 50-game 1998-99 season), with the hope of getting in 66 games instead of a full 82-game schedule.

Stern said he expects the labor committee to endorse the deal and recommend it to the full board for approval.

The players' side has revealed little of its feelings about the deal, noting the pending antitrust litigation in its desire to keep details quiet. But players always preferred to be on the court, rather than in it, and now they finally have the chance — starting Christmas Day. For the season openers, it would be Boston at New York, Miami at Dallas and Chicago at the Lakers. Now, the regular season would end one week later and push back NBA finals a week, potentially setting up a Game 7 on June 28, 2012. The deal also calls for no hard salary cap, no rollbacks of existing salaries and contracts can still be fully guaranteed. Owners had called for all of that, seeking a route to profitability after saying they lost \$300 million last season, and believing they would create a level of parity that had been missing.

But players' annual raises were trimmed from 10.5 percent for those re-signing with their own teams and 8 percent for those leaving to 7.5 percent and 4.5 percent respectively. Rules implemented to curb spending by teams over the luxury tax will limit some of their options in free agency. □

Schild captures season-opening slalom race

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

ASPEN, Colorado (AP) — Austrian skier Marlies Schild captured the season-opening World Cup slalom on Sunday, easily beating Maria Pietilae-Holmner of Sweden with a blistering final run.

Along with it, Schild gained a measure of redemption after she missed the opening gate on the Aspen course last season and didn't finish. It was a rather rookie mistake that left Schild upset, embarrassed and highly motivated. She wasn't about to repeat that performance.

"That maybe happens once and never again," Schild said. Leading after the morning run, despite smacking her chin on a slalom pole, Schild didn't hold back on her second pass and beat Pietilae-Holmner by 1.19 seconds. Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany was third.

"I always try to give my best, try to ski good and not to think about how much I'm in front," said Schild, who now has 30 World Cup wins, many of them in this discipline.

After turning in a fast final run, Pietilae-Holmner had to sit back and wait. She hoped it would be enough to hold off Schild, but knew it probably wasn't.

"She is skiing really good," said Pietilae-Holmner, who trailed by 0.83 seconds af-

ter the first run. "(The gap) was too much. I can't do anything when she is skiing this good. There are more races coming and I will try to beat her for sure."

Lindsey Vonn never made it onto the course after withdrawing moments before the race because of a sore back. But the young

a race course.

"This is the best I've ever felt ski racing so far," Shiffrin elatedly said. "All I can say is this is unreal."

Her performance earned praise from her teammates. "It's awesome to see her do so well," said Julia Mancuso, who finished third in the giant slalom the day



Austria's Marlies Schild reacts after winning at the women's World Cup slalom ski competition in Aspen, Colo., on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

U.S. skier who has been labeled the next Lindsey Vonn did take the course — and turned in the day's best performance by an American.

Mikaela Shiffrin glided through the course like a seasoned veteran to finish in eighth place, an impressive showing for the 16-year-old.

She may not have her driver's license yet but she can go as fast as she wants on

before but skied a little tentative in the slalom and didn't make the cut. "I'm psyched. She skied really well." With Shiffrin around, the bar is definitely being raised. She brings a youthful zest to the slopes.

"To have that caliber of teammate with us has been really cool," said 32-year-old Sarah Schleper, who failed to qualify for a second run. "For me, it's just adapting to the mod-

ern thing and keeping up with 16-year olds. It's actually more of a blessing than anything to have her on our team and to have that push. She's really going to keep the whole team alive."

Vonn elected to skip the slalom — hardly her best event — to give her back time to rest after tweaking it in training last week. She plans to return to the slopes Tuesday for a downhill training run in Lake Louise, Alberta. The move makes sense especially since Vonn typically does very well on the hill at Lake Louise, piling up 14 podium finishes, including eight wins.

But it caught Hoefl-Riesch by surprise.

"I didn't know she still had back problems," said Hoefl-Riesch, the reigning overall World Cup champion.

Once close friends, the bond between Hoefl-Riesch and Vonn became strained last season when Hoefl-Riesch blamed Vonn for not congratulating her on the overall victory.

Now, they're attempting to repair that relationship.

"We are not in a fight anymore," Hoefl-Riesch said. "We talked about everything and we just had two different points of view to some specific things happening last year. We decided to just be respectful to each other and do not talk bad about each other in the press. □



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Tebow leads Broncos to 16-13 OT win over Chargers

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Matt Prater kicked a 37-yard field goal with 29 seconds left in overtime to lift Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos to a 16-13 victory Sunday over the San Diego Chargers, who've lost six straight games for the first time in 10 years.

The Broncos narrowly avoided the first NFL tie since Cincinnati and Philadelphia ended deadlocked at 13 on Nov. 16, 2008.

Tebow, now 5-1 as the Broncos' starter, led Denver from its 43 after San Diego's Nick Novak was wide right on a 53-yard field goal attempt with 2:31 left in overtime. Novak made a 53-yarder in the first quarter, a career-best, and was wide right on a 48-yard try early in the fourth quarter. Tebow had a 12-yard gain and Willis McGahee ran 24 yards up the middle to set up Prater's winning kick, which was right down the middle.

*RAIDERS 25, BEARS 20

At Oakland, California, Sebastian Janikowski kicked a team-record six field goals as Oakland took advantage of three interceptions from Chicago's fill-in starter Caleb Hanie.

Carson Palmer threw for 301 yards and Michael Bush iced the game with a touchdown run in the fourth quarter to lead the Raiders (7-4) to their third straight win against a Bears team missing starting quarterback Jay Cutler.

*PATRIOTS 38, EAGLES 20

At Philadelphia, Tom Brady threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns in a game that all but ended Philadelphia's playoff hopes.

Filling in for the injured Michael Vick for the second straight game, Vince Young couldn't keep the Eagles in contention despite a career-best 400 yards passing. The Eagles fell to 4-7 in a season that began with Super Bowl expectations.

Angry fans made their feelings known about coach Andy Reid, chanting "Fire Andy!" in the second half.

*REDSKINS 23, SEAHAWKS 17

At Seattle, Rex Grossman found Anthony Armstrong for a 50-yard touchdown as Washington rallied for 16 fourth-quarter points to end a six-game losing streak. One play after committing a grounding penalty, Grossman stepped up in the pocket on third-and-19 and found Armstrong in the corner of the end zone.

The touchdown pass was Grossman's second of the game and followed rookie Roy Helu's leaping 28-yard TD run that pulled the Redskins (4-7) within 17-14.

*PANTHERS 27, COLTS 19

At Indianapolis, Cam Newton threw for 208 yards and ran for one score and DeAngelo Williams scored twice to help Carolina hold off winless Indianapolis.

The Panthers (3-8) ended a 12-game road losing streak by winning outside Charlotte, N.C., for the first time since Dec. 27, 2009 when they beat the New York Giants.

Newton was 20 of 27 and carried nine times for 53 yards. Williams ran 15 times for 69 yards including the game-sealing score -- a 2-yard TD run with 10:23 left in the game.



Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow, left, breaks away from San Diego Chargers outside linebacker Travis LaBoy during the second half of an NFL football game on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011, in San Diego.

Associated Press

*FALCONS 24, VIKINGS 14

At Atlanta, Matt Ryan tossed three touchdown passes as Atlanta held on again. The Falcons (7-4) were up 17-0 at halftime after allowing just 97 yards. But, mimicking the previous week's closer-than-necessary victory over Tennessee, they let Minnesota (2-9) back in the game.

Toby Gerhart, filling in for injured Adrian Peterson, scored from the 1 late in the third quarter. Then, after Dominique Franks inadvertently touched a punt the Falcons were trying to avoid to set up a Vikings recovery, Christian Ponder went to Percy Harvin for a 39-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-13 to make it 17-14. Ryan responded with a 3-yard scoring pass to backup Michael Palmer.

*TEXANS 20, JAGUARS 13

At Jacksonville, Florida, Matt Leinart injured his throwing shoulder, over-

shadowing Houston's victory against the offensively inept Jaguars.

Arian Foster ran for 65 yards and a score, Leinart delivered a perfect touchdown pass to Joel Dreessen before leaving the game and the Texans (8-3) sacked Blaine Gabbert six times. It was good enough for their fifth consecutive win, which moved Houston a little closer to clinching the AFC South. But Leinart's shoulder could be a serious setback.

*JETS 28, BILLS 24

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Mark Sanchez threw four touchdown passes, including the winning score to Antonio Holmes with just over a minute remaining. With the Jets trailing 24-21 and facing a third-and-11 from the Bills 36, Sanchez connected with Plaxico Burress, who made an impressive one-handed grab for the first down. Sanchez quickly ran a quarterback

sneak and then, on the next play, rolled out to his right to buy some time and found Holmes alone in the right corner of the end zone to give the Jets the lead with 1:01 left.

*CARDINALS 23, RAMS 20

At St. Louis, Patrick Peterson equaled the NFL record with his fourth punt return for a touchdown this season. Beanie Wells set a franchise mark with 228 yards rushing, and Arizona won its seventh in a row in St. Louis. Wells averaged 8.4 yards per carry on a career day that included gains of 71 and 53 yards. The latter set up Jay Feely's go-ahead 22-yard field goal with 4:12 remaining. Rookie Sam Acho also had a career day on defense with two sacks and a fumble recovery for Arizona (4-7), which did enough to overcome another awful outing by John Skelton, who threw two interceptions. □




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Federer beats Tsonga to win 6th ATP finals title

MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer held off a resilient Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Sunday to win a record sixth ATP World Tour Finals title with a 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3 victory at the season-ending tournament. Federer failed to serve out the match at 5-4 in the second set and then wasted a match point in the tiebreaker as Tsonga threatened to stage another improbable comeback against the former No. 1. Tsonga became the first player to rally from a two-set deficit to beat Federer in a Grand Slam tournament in this year's Wimbledon quarterfinals, but the hard-serving Frenchman couldn't pull off another surprise this time. Playing in his 100th career final, Federer broke for a 5-3 lead in the decider and served out the match to love, sealing his 70th career title with an easy volley. "I couldn't be more happy. I couldn't be more exhausted," Federer told the crowd at the O2 Arena after being presented with the trophy for the second year in a row. "Jo sucked every last bit of energy out of me today."



Roger Federer of Switzerland holds up the winners trophy after he defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France in their singles final tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals, in the O2 arena in London, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

The victory means Federer surpasses Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras, who both won five titles at the season-ending event for the world's top eight players, previously known as the Masters Cup. The Swiss former No. 1 has not lost a match since the U.S. Open semifinals, and finished the year with a 17-match winning streak following titles in Basel and Paris before

coming to London. "He's the best player indoors for the moment," Tsonga said. "He's maybe the best player ever, because he's really quick. He's playing well. That's it." The capacity crowd included Pippa Middleton, Cristiano Ronaldo and London Mayor Boris Johnson — who was initially cheered when showed on the big screen but received boos

when he and his party were late to return to their seats after a changeover, holding up play as Tsonga was about to serve at 2-1 in the third set. Tsonga said he wasn't bothered by the interruption. "It happens all the time," he said. "That's no problem." It was the third Sunday in a row that featured a meeting between these two players, as Federer beat Tsonga in

the Paris final two weeks ago and again in their first round-robin match in London last weekend. The third win proved the hardest for Federer. The Swiss star looked headed for a fairly routine victory after breaking for a 3-2 lead in the second set, hitting a forehand return winner on the line. But he faltered when serving at 5-4, going down 0-40 before Tsonga converted his third breakpoint with a volley winner. In the tiebreaker, Federer led 5-2 and then held a match point at 6-5, but Tsonga saved it with a forehand winner before ripping a scorching forehand return on his first set point to level the match at 1-1. "Today I fight all I can," Tsonga said. "I'm just happy tonight because I had a good week. Of course, to win is better. But anyway, I give everything. Tonight I can see myself in the mirror and say, 'Yeah, you fight enough.'" But Federer wasn't about to allow another comeback, and he converted his third breakpoint in the eighth game of the decider when Tsonga sent a running forehand wide, before easily clinching the victory. □

Associated Press

U.S. ends drought with golf World Cup victory

HAINAN, China (AP) — Matt Kuchar and Gary Woodland ended the United States' 11-year drought in golf's World Cup by shooting a 5-under 67 on Sunday to win by two strokes. The American pair fired six birdies in the alternate-shot final round at Mission Hills Blackstone course to finish on 24-under 264 overall, notching the 24th U.S. win in the history of the tournament.

English pair Ian Poulter and Justin Rose had the final day's best round with a 63 to tie for second at 22-under with Germany's Martin Kaymer and Alex Cejka (69). Ireland's Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell led by two strokes going into the final round but could only manage an even-par 72 to finish joint fourth with Australia, the Netherlands and Scotland.

The American victory was the first since Tiger Woods and David Duval claimed the title eleven years ago. The event was annual up to 2009, and this year's tournament was the first in the new biennial format.

"We really clicked. It's fantastic to win for the U.S.," said Woodland.

The U.S. duo built a two point lead over Germany from the halfway stage and after a rare slip with a bogey at the par-3 11th, the Americans responded with birdies on the next two holes and then pars the rest of the way to claim victory. "Undoubtedly the shots on the 12 and 13th were key. It was a great moment and to shoot a par when you expected a bogey," said Kuchar.

England seemed well out of contention heading into the final day eight shots off the lead, but soared into contention. However they needed more than one of the leading teams to falter. Instead it was only Ireland which came back to the field.

World No. 2 McIlroy was well below his best, fluffing a series of shots, including

a putt on the 18th which would of given Ireland a share of the runners-up check.

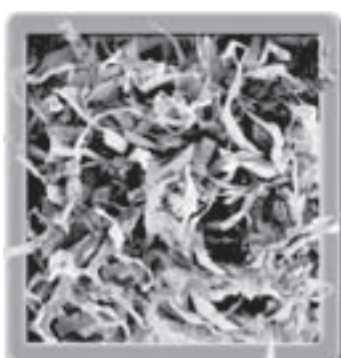
The rot set in for the tournament favorites when they suffered a penalty stroke on the 6th and the Irish duo recorded four bogeys. □

Matt Kuchar, right, of the U.S. and teammate Gary Woodland hold the cup after winning the World Cup golf tournament at the Mission Hills Blackwater course in Haikou, Hainan province, Southern China, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

Associated Press



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A world of purpose after a life of illusion

BENEDICT CAREY

© 2011 New York Times

ATHENS, Ohio — She was gone for good, and no amount of meditation could resolve the grief, even out here in the deep quiet of the woods.

Milt Greek pushed to his feet. It was Mother's Day 2006, not long after his mother's funeral, and he headed back home knowing that he needed help. A change in the medication for his schizophrenia, for sure. A change in focus, too; time with his family, to forget himself.

And, oh yes, he had to act on an urge expressed in his psychotic delusions: to save the world.

So after cleaning the yard around his house — a big job, a gift to his wife — in the coming days he sat down and wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, supporting a noise-pollution ordinance.

Small things, maybe, but Greek has learned to live with his diagnosis in part by understanding and acting on its underlying messages, and along the way has built something exceptional: a full life, complete with a family and a career.

He is one of a small number of successful people with a severe psychiatric diagnosis who have chosen to tell their story publicly. In doing so, they are contributing to a deeper understanding of mental illness — and setting

an example that can help others recover.

"I started feeling better, stronger, the next day," said Greek, 49, a computer programmer who for years, before receiving medical treatment, had delusions of meeting God and Jesus.

"I have such anxiety if I'm not organizing or doing some good work. I don't feel right. That's what the psychosis has given me, and I consider it to be a



gift." Doctors generally consider the delusional beliefs of schizophrenia to be just that — delusional — and any attempt to indulge them to be an exercise in reckless collusion that could make matters worse. There is no point, they say, in trying to explain the psychological significance of someone's belief that the CIA is spying through the TV; it has no basis, other than psychosis. Yet people who have had such experiences often dis-



Milt Greek, an Ohio computer programmer who has worked to understand his schizophrenia, in Athens, Ohio. Greek helps fellow schizophrenia sufferers to share their stories and gain insight into their condition.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

they have ever had before: one another's stories.

"It's a thrilling time, because people with lived experience are beginning to collaborate in large numbers," said Gail A. Hornstein, a psychologist at Mount Holyoke College and author of "Agnes's Jacket: A Psychologist's Search for the Meanings of Madness." "They are developing their own theories, their own language about what their experiences means from the inside."

Greek is one of the most exceptional, having built a successful life and career despite having schizophrenia — and, he says, because of it. He manages the disorder with medication,

personal routines, and by minding the messages in his own strange delusions.

"Schizophrenia is the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "I know a lot of people with the diagnosis don't feel that way, but the experience changed me, for the better. I was so arrogant, so narcissistic, so self-involved, and it humbled me. It gave me a purpose, and that purpose has been very much a part of my recovery."

THE VILLAGE ECCENTRIC

Like many idealistic undergraduates, Greek arrived at Ohio University in Athens on a mission. Only, like many undergrads, he wasn't completely sure what it was.

"To discover a psychological code that people should live by, to create world peace," he said. "Something like that."

The town was ready to listen, regardless. It was fall 1981, and Athens still had one sandal planted in the 1960s; communes thrived in the Appalachian foothills to the north, and big ideas were in the air, at least in the streets and bars near campus, where professors and students gathered. One stood out.

"You can't imagine how intense he was back then," said June Holley, a friend and business consultant in Athens. "He had this long, very thick, curly chestnut hair and wild eyes; he looked like a lion. He could be loud, and I think a lot of people just didn't want to deal with it."

Local residents gave him the sidewalk, avoided eye contact and generally accepted him as one variety of village lunatic — in a town with a rich history of them. □

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NASA launches super-size rover to Mars: 'Go, Go!'

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — A super-size rover zoomed toward Mars on an 8½-month, 354 million-mile journey Saturday, the biggest, best equipped robot ever sent to explore another planet.

NASA's six-wheeled, one-armed wonder, Curiosity, will reach Mars next summer and use its jackhammer drill, rock-zapping laser machine and other devices to search for evidence that Earth's next-door neighbor might once have been home to the teeniest forms of life.

More than 13,000 invited guests jammed the Kennedy Space Center on Saturday morning to witness NASA's first launch to Mars in four years, and the first flight of a Martian rover in eight years. Mars fever gripped the crowd.

NASA astrobiologist Pan Conrad, whose carbon compound-seeking instrument is on the rover, wore a bright blue, short-sleeve blouse emblazoned with rockets, planets and the words, "Next stop Mars!" She jumped, cheered and snapped pictures as the Atlas V rocket blasted off. So did Los Alamos National Laboratory's Roger Wiens, a planetary scientist in charge of Curiosity's laser blaster, called ChemCam. Surrounded by 50 U.S. and French members of his team, Wiens shouted "Go, Go, Go!" as the rocket soared into a cloudy sky. "It was beautiful," he later

observed, just as NASA declared the launch a full success.

A few miles away at the space center's visitor complex, Lego teamed up with NASA for a toy spacecraft-building event for children this Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The irresistible lure: 800,000 Lego bricks.

The 1-ton Curiosity — 10 feet long, 9 feet wide and 7 feet tall at its mast — is a mobile, nuclear-powered laboratory holding 10 science instruments that will sample Martian soil and rocks, and with unprecedented skill, analyze them right on the spot.

It's as big as a car. But NASA's Mars exploration program director calls it "the monster truck of Mars." "It's an enormous mission. It's equivalent of three missions, frankly, and quite an undertaking," said the ecstatic program director, Doug McCuiston. "Science fiction is now science fact. We're flying to Mars. We'll get it on the ground and see what we find."

The primary goal of the \$2.5 billion mission is to see whether cold, dry, barren Mars might have been hospitable for microbial life once upon a time — or might even still be conducive to life now. No actual life detectors are on board; rather, the instruments will hunt for organic compounds.

Curiosity's 7-foot arm has a jackhammer on the end to drill into the Martian red rock, and the 7-foot mast on the rover is topped with

high-definition and laser cameras.

With Mars the ultimate goal for astronauts, NASA will use Curiosity to measure radiation at the red planet. The rover also has a weather station on board that will provide temperature, wind and humidity readings; a computer software app with daily weather updates is planned.

No previous Martian rover has been so sophisticated. The world has launched more than three dozen missions to the ever-alluring Mars, which is more like Earth than the other solar-system planets. Yet fewer than half those quests have succeeded.

Just two weeks ago, a Russian spacecraft ended up stuck in orbit around Earth, rather than en route to the Martian moon Phobos.

"Mars really is the Bermuda Triangle of the solar system," said NASA's Colleen Hartman, assistant associate administrator for science. "It's the death planet, and the United States of America is the only nation in the world that has ever landed and driven robotic explorers on the surface of Mars, and now we're set to do it again."

Curiosity's arrival next August will be particularly hair-raising.

In a spacecraft first, the rover will be lowered onto the Martian surface via a jet pack and tether system similar to the sky cranes used to lower heavy equipment into remote areas on Earth. □



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying NASA's Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Curiosity rover lifts off from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011. The rocket will deliver a science laboratory to Mars to study potential habitable environments on the planet.

Associated Press

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PAUL SULLIVAN

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The scariest thing about MF Global's bankruptcy four weeks ago is not that a venerable firm led by a former Goldman Sachs chief executive and New Jersey governor collapsed. It is that MF Global's customers have not yet gotten all their money back. And with the report this week from the court-appointed trustee that as much as \$1.2 billion appears to be missing, many customers are worried that they'll ever see that money again.

It wasn't supposed to work that way. Commodities firms are required to keep clients' money separate from the firm's capital.

In the commodities world, these segregated accounts had been seen as stronger than the deposit insurance offered by banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the protection on securities, like stocks and bonds, given by the Securities Investor Protection Corp.

But regulators suspect that MF Global did not keep its clients' money separate in its chaotic waning days, using some customers' money, they believe, to meet its own obligations. And if the firm violated the rule requiring segregated accounts, investors say they are now concerned about the viability of commodities trading as it has been con-



Jack Lucentini, a science writer who has been hurt by what he considered a safe play by having extra cash in his MF Global account, at this office in New York. Four weeks after MF Global declared bankruptcy it's customers have not yet gotten all their money back, and with a report this week that \$1.2 billion appears to be missing, many customers are worried that they'll never see that money again.

(Tina Fineberg/The New York Times)

ducted in the United States for more than a century.

"If they're not going to uphold segregated funds, this can happen again tomorrow to anyone," said Paula Pierce, a commodities lawyer in Virginia. "The question is whether anyone is going to do anything about it."

R. David Gary, a spokesman for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which was MF Global's main regulator, said the commission planned to review the rule governing segregated accounts at a meeting on Dec. 5. Michael Shore, a spokesman for the

CME Group, which owns the main exchanges where MF Global traded, said: "It's important to understand this was an unprecedented situation for our industry and that the shortfall in total customer segregated funds occurred at the firm level, not at the clearing-house level."

The regulators attribute some of the delay in returning clients' money to what the court-appointed trustee has described as sloppy bookkeeping at MF Global, which has made it difficult to find what is left and where it is. But lawyers

representing clients who have lost access to their money do not accept this argument.

They say that segregated accounts are sacrosanct and that the money in them should have been immediately returned to their clients.

"It hasn't worked out well for anyone yet, even the people who had positions move over early on," said Timothy Butler, a partner at Tibbetts Keating & Butler in Darien, Conn., who represents 10 clients with accounts ranging from \$6,000 to several million dollars. □

Iraq signs gas deal with Shell, Mitsubishi

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq on Sunday signed a multibillion-dollar deal with Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. to tap natural gas in the south, one of the biggest agreements by the OPEC member to develop an energy sector battered by years of neglect and war.

The \$17 billion deal forms a joint venture to gather, process and market gas from three oil fields in the oil-rich province of Basra. That gas, pumped in conjunction with crude oil, is currently burned off — or flared — due to lack of infrastructure.

The 25-year joint venture is called Basra Gas Company. Iraq will hold a 51 percent stake, to Royal Dutch Shell's 44 percent and Mitsubishi's 5 percent shares. The gas will be used mainly for domestic energy needs, but there is also an option for exports.

Iraq's Oil Minister, Abdul-Karim Elaihi hailed the signing as "historic turn in Iraq's oil industry."

Shell CEO Peter Voser told reporters that Iraq is now a "...substantial part of Royal Dutch Shell's portfolio in the Middle East."

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China tycoon slams Iceland investment rejection

BEIJING (AP) — A Beijing businessman says anti-Chinese prejudice and double standards are behind Iceland's decision to turn down his proposal to build a vast nature retreat in the north Atlantic island nation. Iceland's interior ministry said Friday it had rejected an application by Huang Nubo's Zhongkun Group to buy 120 square miles (30,639 hectares) of land on the north shore of Iceland in a deal that would have been worth about 1 billion Icelandic kronur (\$8.8 million).

While the country's prime minister previously said she would welcome Huang's investment, the ministry said it could not lift the country's restrictions on the purchase of land by foreigners to allow the deal to go ahead. However, in an interview in the official China Daily newspaper appearing Sunday, Huang said the rejection was indicative of anti-Chinese attitudes in the West.



In this photo taken Sept. 27, 2011, an unnamed location is seen in Iceland. This isolated expanse of land is pocked by steaming fissures, molten mud pools and lava fields — perhaps an unlikely place for a Chinese tycoon to build a resort. But that's exactly what Huang Nubo wants to do. And the deal, if approved, will account for a big chunk of this remote island nation. Nubo is battling back allegations that the deal could give China a strategic foothold into the Arctic Circle, where melting ice caps may one day open more shipping lanes and potentially save a fortune in transporting goods.

(AP Photo/Paisley Dodds)

"There are still double standards," Huang was quoted as saying.

Western countries wish to "encourage the opening of the Chinese market

while they close their doors to Chinese investments," he said.

Huang complained he had received little help from the interior ministry and speculated the rejection may have resulted from a power struggle among the country's politicians. He said he would not be renewing his interest in Iceland and would instead take on new projects in the U.S. and in other Nordic countries such as Sweden and Finland.

Huang's proposed project had been seen by some as a lifeline for Iceland's struggling economy as it battles back from the collapse of its banking industry in 2008. He had hoped the site in Iceland's northeast — which would have represented about 0.3 percent of the island's land mass — would attract about 10,000 guests a year and create scores of new jobs.

Since its financial meltdown, Iceland's economy has begun to recover — with the International

Monetary Fund predicting economic growth of 2.5 percent in 2012, far better than some of its struggling European neighbors.

Some critics of the proposed deal had raised concerns that allowing Huang to purchase the land could give China a strategic foothold in the Arctic Circle, where nations are scrambling to claim natural resources and melting ice caps are expected to eventually open up new, faster global shipping lanes.

Huang earlier rejected those claims and insisted that he planned the Icelandic site would be part of a chain of nature resorts in China, the United States and Scandinavia.

Halldor Johannsson, Huang's representative in Iceland, said he was surprised by the government's rebuff and claimed Icelandic law did not include limits on the size of a parcel of land an investor could purchase. □

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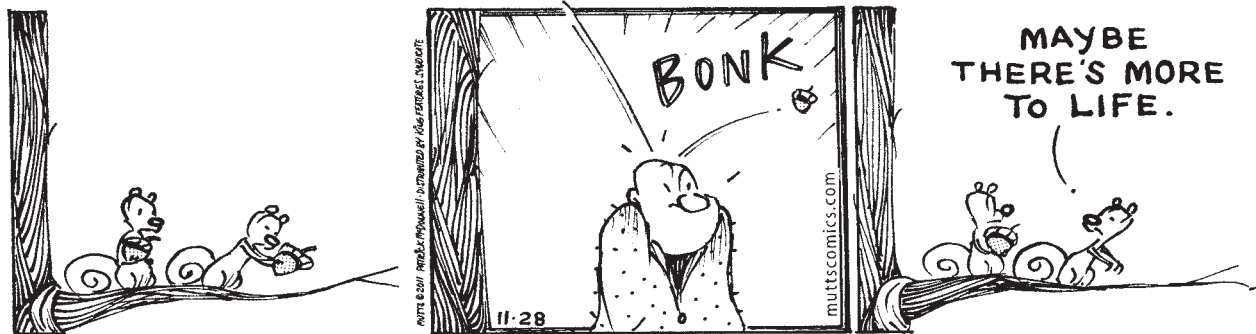
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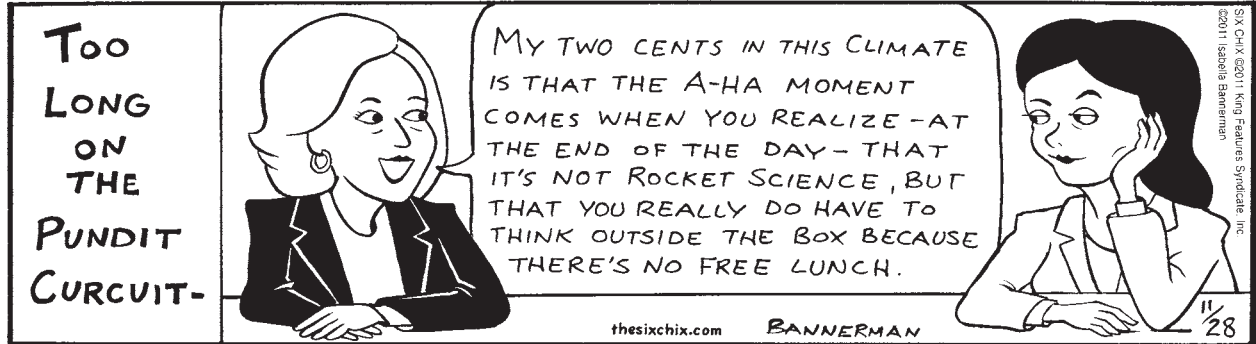
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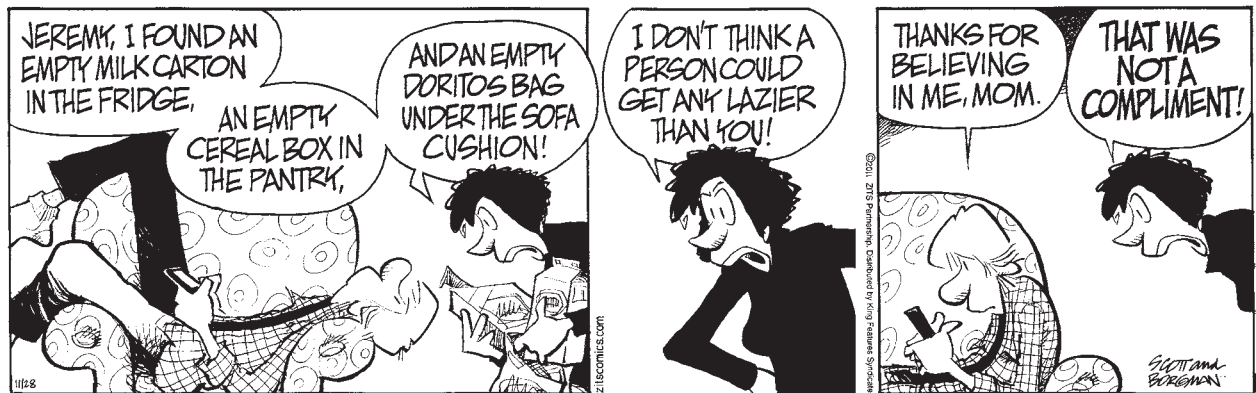
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9		8			2	6	
3						9		5
					6		7	4
9				5	7	8		
			3		1			
		2	6	4				1
7	8		5					
1		4						8
	6	9			3		4	

Difficulty Level ★ 11/28

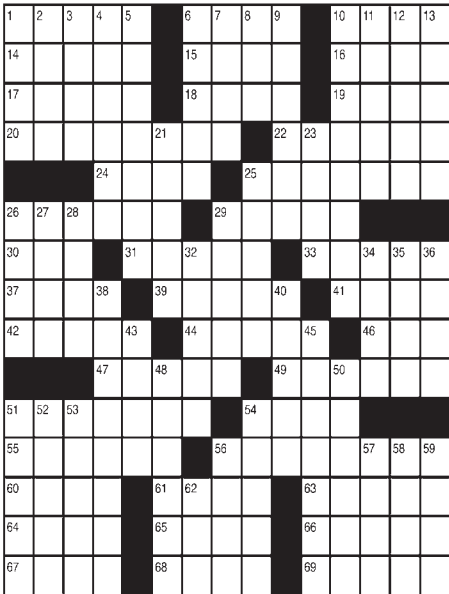
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

3	1	2	4	9	8	6	7	5
7	5	4	6	3	1	8	9	2
6	9	8	7	2	5	4	3	1
4	2	7	1	5	9	3	8	6
8	6	9	3	4	2	5	1	7
5	3	1	8	6	7	2	4	9
2	4	5	9	1	3	7	6	8
9	8	6	5	7	4	1	2	3
1	7	3	2	8	6	9	5	4

ACROSS

- 1 Pep
- 6 Middle-; neither young nor old
- 10 Lowest singing voice
- 14 Very angry
- 15 Pierce
- 16 Arthur of tennis
- 17 Vision
- 18 Meander
- 19 Stylish
- 20 Declared firmly
- 22 Upward movement
- 24 Uncommon
- 25 Puts into boxes
- 26 Debacle
- 29 Passion
- 30 Bizarre
- 31 Tiny & delicate
- 33 Piece of dining room furniture
- 37 Skelton and Buttons
- 39 Restrict
- 41 Cafeteria food holder
- 42 Loosens up
- 44 Glances from a slimeball
- 46 Hardware store chain
- 47 Hoodwinked
- 49 Made amends
- 51 Thought highly of
- 54 Incision memento
- 55 Convicted on false evidence
- 56 Tall reedy marsh plants
- 60 Scrabble piece
- 61 Dull-colored
- 63 New Delhi, _
- 64 Balanced; fair
- 65 Geneva or Erie
- 66 Womanizer's looks
- 67 Nap
- 68 Water jug
- 69 Has to have



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/28/11

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	Z	A	R	O	C	C	U	R	C	Y	S	T
R	I	D	E	S	A	U	N	A	R	O	P	E
A	T	O	P	C	R	E	S	T	I	R	I	S
M	I	S	L	E	A	D	A	I	L	M	E	N
		E	A	R		P	I	O	U	S		
S	C	O	T	T	S	A	D		N	O	B	L
C	O	V	E		P	A	L		B	A	N	Y
A	C	E		M	A	N	A	G	E	R	L	I
N	O	R	M	A	N		V	I	E		F	A
S	A	T	A	N	B	E	N		N	E	W	S
			L	I	F	E	R	S	U	N		
A	R	T	I	C	L	E		B	I	N	D	I
B	E	R	G		O	T	H	E	R		E	V
L	E	A	N	S	L	A	T	E		R	A	R
E	L	M	S		S	E	D	A	N		S	N

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- 35 Frilly trimming
- 36 Observed
- 38 Residue at a liquid's bottom
- 40 Stretch of land
- 43 Certain
- 45 Depot
- 48 Sell from a cart
- 50 Citrus fruit
- 51 Run _; chase
- 52 Will to achieve
- 53 Boys and men
- 54 Cavalry sword
- 56 Bakery dessert
- 57 Doing nothing
- 58 Fibbed
- 59 Talk back
- 62 Uncooked

Today In History

Today is Monday, November 28, the 332nd day of 2011. There are 33 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1520 - Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reaches Pacific Ocean from the Atlantic after passing through a South American strait now bearing his name.
 1821 - Panama declares itself independent of Spain and joins the Republic of Colombia.
 1885 - British forces occupy Mandalay in Burma.
 1897 - Germany occupies Kiao-Chow in northern China, where German missionaries were slain.
 1905 - Sinn Fein Party, part of the Irish Republican movement, is founded in Dublin, Ireland.
 1912 - Albanian patriot Ismail Qemali proclaims independence from Ottoman Turkish rule in the southern town of Vlora and creates first-ever Albanian government.
 1916 - German planes make their first raid on London, already subject to Zeppelin bombardments.
 1919 - Lady Astor is elected first woman member of Britain's Parliament.
 1922 - Six former ministers of Greece are executed.
 1937 - General Francisco Franco begins naval blockade of Spanish coast.
 1942 - Almost 500 people perish in fire that destroys Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston, Massachusetts.
 1943 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin meet in Tehran, Iran, during World War II.
 1944 - Albania is liberated from German occupation.
 1958 - The African nation of Chad becomes an autonomous republic within the French community.
 1960 - Mauritania becomes independent republic, separating from France.
 1967 - Communist China is turned down for admission to the United Nations for the 18th time.
 1971 - Jordan's Prime Minister



Today is Jon Stewart's birthday

ter Wasfi Tell is assassinated while attending an Arab conference in Cairo, Egypt.
 1977 - Rhodesia announces 1,200 have been killed in its recent raids against black nationalist guerrillas across the border in Mozambique.
 1980 - Haitian police arrest some 200 journalists, politicians, human rights activists, doctors and teachers for alleged communist-inspired agitation and criticizing the government's economic policies.
 1987 - South African Airways jet plane with 159 people aboard crashes in Indian Ocean near Mauritius.
 1989 - Czech authorities say they will form a coalition government with non-communists; Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi resigns after election defeat.
 1990 - Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew steps down after 31 years in power; Britain's Queen Elizabeth II confers prime ministership on John Major.
 1991 - Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi says he will not surrender two Libyans accused of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.
 1992 - Thousands peacefully demonstrate in at least 20 German cities protesting anti-foreigner violence by youth groups.
 1993 - Serb gunners lob a mortar shell into central Sarajevo, killing five people and wounding eight others on the eve of new peace talks.
 1994 - Norwegians reject European Union membership.
 1996 - A former Rio de Janeiro state trooper, Nelson Oliveira dos Santos Cunha, is found guilty of murdering eight homeless youths in July 1993. □

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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

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Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

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Police	582-4000

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Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
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'Twilight' keeps shining with \$42M second weekend

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The latest "Twilight" movie has plenty of daylight left with a second-straight win at the weekend box office.

"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1" took in \$42 million domestically over the three-day weekend and \$62.3 million in the five-day Thanksgiving boom time from Wednesday to Sunday. That raised its domestic total to \$221.3 million, while the Summit Entertainment release added \$71.5 million overseas to lift the international total to \$268 million and the worldwide take to \$489.3 million. Debuting at No. 2 was Disney's family flick "The Muppets," with \$29.5 million for the three-day weekend and \$42 million over the five-day holiday haul.

Three other family films rounded out the top-five: the Warner Bros. sequel "Happy Feet Two" at No. 3 with a three-day total of \$13.4 million and \$18.4 million for five days; Sony's animated comedy "Arthur Christmas" at No. 4 with \$12.7 million for three days and \$17 million for five days; and Paramount's epic adventure "Hugo" at No. 5 with \$11.4 million for three

days and \$15.4 million for five days.

Between "Breaking Dawn" and the blitz of family films, analysts thought Hollywood had a shot at record revenue over the Thanksgiving holiday, one of the year's busiest weekends at movie theaters. But viewers did not come in anywhere close to record numbers.

"I was pretty surprised by this. I just thought this was the perfect combination of films in the marketplace," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "Maybe there was just too much out there." Domestic revenue totaled \$234 million from Wednesday to Sunday, well below the \$273 million record set two years ago, when "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" led the Thanksgiving weekend, according to Hollywood.com. Receipts also fell short of last Thanksgiving's \$264 million haul, when "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" finished on top. Studio executives concede it's growing harder to lure fans into theaters given all the portable games, devices and other electronics people have to fill up their entertainment time. A so-so Thanksgiving on a



British actor Robert Pattinson, left, and US actor Taylor Lautner, right, attend a film premiere of 'Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 1' in Berlin, Friday, Nov. 18, 2011.

Associated Press

weekend with such a good variety of movies could be a sign that Hollywood simply has to live with diminished expectations. "I don't know that choice is ever a bad thing, and in terms of a weekend for families, this is one of the best," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney, which brought "The Muppets" back to the big-screen after a 12-year absence. "The challenge is breaking through and being relevant and mean-

ingful and fresh enough to take the more finicky customers and have them choose you."

Disney reported that "The Muppets" drew a good mix of families and couples without children who fondly remember Kermit, Miss Piggy and the rest of the gang on "The Muppet Show." The film stars Jason Segel and Amy Adams as fans helping to reunite the Muppets for a telethon to save their decaying studio.

"Breaking Dawn" was holding close to the pattern set by "New Moon" two years ago, though domestic revenues were off slightly. Factoring in higher ticket prices since "New Moon," the audience shrank even further for "Breaking Dawn."

"I think the audience has changed a bit. Everybody's grown a little older, and I guess we lose a few of our patrons to age," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Summit. □

Philly museum brings 'Birds of America' to public

By JOANN LOVIGLIO

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — One of the world's rarest and most valuable books is out of the vault and on public view as part of an unusual daily ritual at the nation's oldest natural history museum. Every weekday at 3:15 p.m., a white-gloved staff member of the Academy of Natural Sciences lifts the locked protective cover from 19th century naturalist John James Audubon's influential book, "The Birds of America," and turns a large linen-backed page to reveal the bird of the day. More than 180 years after Audubon created the life-size illustrations that now link his name with ornithology,

their vibrant watercolors and fine details are still remarkable.

"Many times these were framed as artworks and faded from exposure to light," said curator Robert Peck, who does many of the page turnings. "Ours weren't exposed to light, so they're in wonderful condition." The Academy of Natural Sciences was an original pay-as-you-go subscriber of "The Birds of America" from 1827 to 1838. The complete folio of 435 hand-colored copper engravings on handmade paper, each measuring about 2 feet by 3 feet, cost \$1,000 — the equivalent of around \$40,000 today, Peck said.

Every month or so during those years, "Birds of America" subscribers received a set of five prints — usually one large show-stopper of a bird like the hot-pink Roseate Spoonbill, along with four prints of smaller species. Audubon created 87 sets of five in all; the museum bound its completed collection into five volumes. "Some of the birds hadn't even been discovered yet when he started," Peck said. Last year in London, a privately owned complete edition of "The Birds of America" sold at auction for \$11.5 million — a record-breaking price for a single book. "He was so great at these paintings and he was



this Nov. 21, 2011 photo, Robert Peck, senior fellow of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and curator of Art and Artifacts, turns a page in a bound folio of John James Audubon's "The Birds of America," published from 1827-1838, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

such a wonderful character," Peck said. "He was a great storyteller with lots of anecdotes about his experiences of discovering these birds in the wild." Audubon traveled for decades to observe birds in

their habitats and to hunt samples he used as his models for his masterwork, which allowed people to see exotic species in incredible detail and full color before the invention of photography. □

U.S. exhibit showcases legendary black photographer

KEVIN BEGOS

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Charles “Teenie” Harris had a photographic mission: going beyond the obvious or sensational to capture the essence of daily African-American life in the 20th century.

For more than 40 years, Harris — as lead photographer of the influential Pittsburgh Courier newspaper — took almost 80,000 pictures of people from all walks of life: presidents, housewives, sports stars, babies, civil rights leaders and even cross-dressing drag queens.

Now, a new exhibit and on-line catalog is showing the depth of Harris’ work, an archive showing a major artistic achievement that influenced people around the country.

“His shots of everyday people are amazing. People seem to kind of jump off the page,” said Stanley Nelson, an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and MacArthur genius grant winner who has made a number of acclaimed films on African-American artists, business people, and workers. “They don’t have the sense of somebody kind of looking in and spying on the community. For me his pictures are very unique,” Nelson said.

Harris was a gifted basketball player as a young man, and helped start a Negro League baseball team, too. His brother was Pittsburgh’s biggest bookie, and that gave him access to people throughout the city.

But he found his mission at the Pittsburgh Courier, which was distributed all over the country via a network of black Pullman train porters.

Through the paper Harris had endless opportunities to chronicle daily life and to meet the rich, famous, and powerful.

Harris photographed Presidents Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy; Jackie Robinson, who broke Ma-



In this 1940 photo taken by Pittsburgh photographer Charles “Teenie” Harris, and provided by the Carnegie Museum of Art, Harris poses for a self-portrait in his hill district photo studio in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

gor League Baseball’s color barrier, and many musical greats, such as Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington.

“That was the black national paper of record at the time,” said Laurence Glasco, a professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh.

Many people stopped by the Courier offices because of its clout with African-Americans, Glasco said. Yet Harris neither pandered to nor looked down on celebrities, he added.

“He really didn’t have a cult of celebrity. He wouldn’t cross a street to shake a celebrity’s hand. He was interested in them, but he really saw them as just people. And that really comes out in his photographs,” Glasco said.

“He had an equal opportunity lens,” recalled Teenie’s son, Charles Harris. “He just liked people.”

The partnership with the Courier was a perfect match, since its reporters and editors were also push. Yet the photographs are more than just a rich trove of mid-century American history. They emerge as art because Harris became a master of composition and for decades took each picture with a large-format camera that had to be hand-loaded with a single piece of film for each shot.

“I remember being just shocked and amazed at what an incredible photog-

rapher he was. He just had this incredible eye,” said Nelson, who noted that Harris earned the nickname “One Shot” for his ability to deliver an assignment with one photograph.

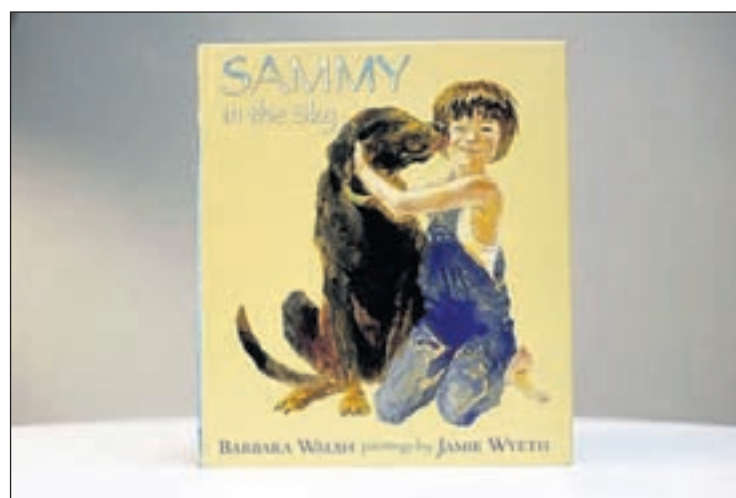
Many of the pictures show a successful — and happy — black middle class. One young woman is depicted posing on the hood of a 1950s car, with steel mills in the background, while another simply kneels while playing with two small dogs. And even before the civil rights movement, there are many pictures showing black and white children and adults together.

Glasco notes that even some controversial pictures seem to defy current expectations of what the past was like. In one, a man in a car has a cross-dressing male companion on each side.

“They’re happy, they’re proud, they’re smiling. It’s a joyful thing,” Glasco said of the men openly dressing as women.

At an annual parade in Pittsburgh’s Hill district, one car was often filled with cross-dressers who waved at crowds, he added.

Glasco once saw a Harris picture of cross-dressers next to contemporary pictures with the same subject, and was struck by the anger and hostility of the people in the new pictures, and the openness of the people in the older ones. □



This Nov. 3, 2011 photo shows a copy of the new children’s book, “Sammy in the Sky,” in Portland, Maine. The story was written by Barbara Walsh and illustrated by Jamie Wyeth.

Associated Press

Book aims to help kids cope with loss of a pet

DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — First there was Marley, the rambunctious Labrador retriever whose death brought readers to tears in John Grogan’s “Marley and Me.” Now there’s Sammy, a mixed-breed hound who’s the subject of another tear-jerker, a children’s book, “Sammy in the Sky.”

When her beloved hound dog died, Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist Barbara Walsh watched her young daughters tearfully struggle with their loss and with tough questions. Walsh quickly realized there was a story to be told, one that she hopes will help other families deal with the loss of a pet.

But it wasn’t easy getting the book published, even after Walsh enlisted celebrated American artist Jamie Wyeth to fill the pages with illustrations in watercolor, acrylic and pencil.

Book agents and publishers were squeamish about the subject matter, yet Walsh and Wyeth didn’t want to sugarcoat the pain and sorrow that unfolds in “Sammy in the Sky.”

“Agents didn’t want to go near this book. They said, ‘It’s too sad, it’s too real,’” Walsh recalled.

“That’s my point. There’s nothing else like this out there.” Sammy, a mixed-breed hound, became the family’s first pet, purchased from a dog pound for \$30 by Walsh’s husband, Eric Conrad, while they were living in Florida. Sammy became a cherished family member, earning Eric’s oft-repeated moniker, “the best hound dog in the world.”

The hound showed love and patience. He licked Emma’s cheeks when Barbara and Eric brought her home from the hospital. He slept next to her crib.

“She’d play doctor and wrap him in bandages and put bonnets on his head. He would just sit there. She used to sleep on him. He was her pillow,” Walsh said. “He was this amazing, gentle hound who looked after her. And she considered him to be her best friend.”

As pet owners know, all good things must come to an end. The family, by now living in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, discovered a lump on Sammy, and he was diagnosed with cancer at age 12. The girls were told to enjoy their time with him, because it was drawing short. On the night he died at home, Emma echoed her father’s words: “You’re the best hound dog in the whole wide world.”

Emma was 5, and Nora was 3.

After the tears dried, Emma kept asking her parents why did Sammy have to leave, and where did his spirit go. She would run inside after school and holler out Sammy’s name, forgetting the hound was gone. □

The enduring cult of Kennedy



ROSS DOUTHAT

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The cult of John F. Kennedy has the resilience of a horror-movie villain. No matter how many times the myths of Camelot are seemingly interred by history, they always come shambling back to life – in another television special, another Vanity Fair cover story, another hardcover hagiography.

It's fitting, then, that the latest exhumation comes courtesy of Stephen King himself. King serves a dual role in our popular culture: He's at once the master of horror and the bard of the baby boom, writing his way through the twilight borderlands where the experiences of the post-World War II generation are stalked by nightmares and shadowed by metaphysical dread.

In this landscape, the death of JFK looms up like the Overlook Hotel. The gauzy fantasy of the Kennedy White House endures precisely because the reality of the assassination still feels like a primal catastrophe – an irruption of inexplicable evil as horrifying as any supernatural bogeyman.

At its best, King's new Kennedy assassination novel, "11/22/63" – which sends its protagonist back in time to change that November day's events – offers an implicit critique of this generational obsession. (I am not giving much away when I reveal that the time-traveling hero does not succeed in freeing '60s America from the cruel snares of history.) But its narrative power still depends on accepting the false premises of the Kennedy cult – premises that will no doubt endure so long as the 1960s generation does, but still deserve to be challenged at every opportunity.

The first premise is that Kennedy was a very good president, and might have been a great one if he'd lived. Few serious historians take this view: It belongs to Camelot's surviving court stenographers, and to popularizers like Chris Matthews, whose new best seller

"Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero" works hard to gloss over the thinness of the 35th president's actual accomplishments. Yet there is no escaping the myth's hold on the popular imagination. In Gallup's "greatest president" polling, JFK still regularly jostles with Lincoln and Reagan for the top spot.

In reality, the kindest interpretation of Kennedy's presidency is that he was a mediocrity whose death left his final grade as "incomplete." The harsher view would deem him a near disaster – ineffective in domestic policy, evasive on civil rights and a serial blunderer in foreign policy, who barely avoided a nuclear war that his own brinksmanship had pushed us toward. (And the latter judgment doesn't even take account of the medical problems that arguably made him unfit for the presidency, or the adulteries that eclipsed Bill Clinton's for sheer recklessness.)

The second false premise is that Kennedy would have kept us out of Vietnam. Or as a character puts it in "11/22/63," making the case for killing Lee Harvey Oswald: "Get rid of one wretched waif, buddy, and you could save millions of lives."

Actually, it would be more accurate to describe the Vietnam War as Kennedy's darkest legacy. His Churchillian rhetoric ("pay any price, bear any burden ...") provided the war's rhetorical frame as surely as George W. Bush's post-9/11 speeches did for our intervention in Iraq. His slow-motion military escalation established the strategic template that Lyndon Johnson followed so disastrously. And the war's architects were all Kennedy people: It was the Whiz Kids' mix of messianism and technocratic confidence, not Oswald's fatal bullet, that sent so many Americans to die in Indochina.

The third myth is that Kennedy was a martyr to right-wing unreason. Writing on JFK in the latest issue of New York magazine, Frank Rich half-acknowledges the mediocrity of Kennedy's presidency. But he cannot resist joining a generation of liberals in drawing a connection between the right-wing "atmosphere of hate" in early-1960s Dallas and the assassination itself – and then linking both to today's anti-Obama zeal. Neither can King, whose "11/22/63" explicitly compares right-wing Dallas to his own fictional territory of Derry, Me. – home of the murderous Pennywise the Clown from "It," among other demons. □



Ok, now Ron Paul



GAIL COLLINS

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Ron Paul, the libertarian congressman from Texas, now seems to have an outside chance of winning the Iowa caucus vote. Not the presidential nomination. It seems highly unlikely that the Republicans are going to give the nod to a guy who disapproves of the Patriot Act and marriage licenses.

But, still, he's definitely having a moment.

And, therefore, I feel obliged to add him to our survey of presidential candidate book reports.

Just say a prayer Rick Santorum doesn't take off next.

Paul has written a ton of stuff, most of it on his economic theories. His big best-seller is "End the Fed," and, if you are interested in abolishing the Federal Reserve, I would really suggest reading it. However, the Fed is not going to be ended. People are not going to be given the power to mint their own money, as Paul also suggests. But, really, if this is what floats your boat, read away.

"Liberty Defined: 50 Essential Is-

sues That Affect Our Freedom" has more variety. It's full of essays, mostly about things Paul disapproves of, from abortion to Zionism.

It's quite a list. Paul says he believes that the federal government ("the wealth-extracting leviathan state") shouldn't be doing anything that's not specifically enumerated in the Constitution, which once caused him to vote against giving a congressional medal to Mother Teresa.

He doesn't really believe in global warming, but, even if he did, he doesn't think government is smart enough to be able to do anything about it. He also doesn't believe in, well, let's see: gun control, the death penalty, the CIA, the Civil Rights Act, prosecuting flag-burners, hate crime legislation, foreign aid, the military draft under any circumstances, campaign finance reform, the war on drugs, the war on terror and the war on porn. Also the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Taxes are theft. While his fellow Republican candidates fume about gay marriage, Paul thinks the government should get out of the business of issuing marriage licenses entirely. ("In a free society, something that we do not truly enjoy, all voluntary and consensual agreements would be recognized.") Paul is the only person running for president in either party who seems determined to be consistent, come hell or high water. The only time I ever saw him dodge a question was when somebody asked him if he preferred letting people die in a ditch to government-financed health care. But,

even then, you could tell that he really did prefer the ditch.

Paul can get kind of swoony when he's talking about the rock stars of the Austrian school of economics, but he's not much for personal autobiography. He has a few stories about his childhood in "End the Fed," but they mainly involve the way his stamp and coin collections helped him to understand the concept of currency inflation.

When six of the Republican presidential candidates got together recently for a Family Forum in Iowa in order to woo the social right, they were invited to tell personal stories of their own moments of despair and doubt. Herman Cain broke down while discussing a bout with cancer. Rick Perry said that Jesus had filled a hole in his soul. Santorum told a moving story about his seriously ill baby daughter, which he then somehow connected to the evils of Obamacare. Paul seemed at a loss, but then he finally offered that when he was in high school he really wanted to be a track star but it didn't work out.

Basically, Paul seems to want to revert to the 18th century, when every bank could set its own monetary policy and every community ran its own schools – presuming, of course, the community wanted to pay for them.

"The founders of this country were well educated, mostly by being home-schooled or taught in schools associated with a church," he reasons. Those of us who were not born in the gentry could presumably go back to sewing and reaping hay. □

TV attack ads aim at Obama hard and fast

JEREMY W. PETERS

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Inside the debate halls, the clash may be Republican versus Republican. But off-stage, conservatives are mounting a unified and expensive air assault on the candidates' common opponent: President Barack Obama.

Less than a year before Election Day, Republican presidential candidates and conservative action groups are already spending heavily on television advertising aimed at casting Obama as a failure. They are employing aggressive and sometimes misleading tactics as they exchange fire with the White House and its allies in what is shaping up to be the most costly general election advertising war yet. In an advertisement from Gov. Rick Perry of Texas that is now running on national cable television, Perry looks directly into the camera and declares: "Obama's socialist policies are bankrupting America. We must stop him now."

A new commercial from Mitt Romney that ran last week in New Hampshire dis-

the billionaire industrialist Koch brothers, and, increasingly, Republican candidates themselves, have spent more than \$13 million on advertisements carrying a negative message about Obama, according to an analysis by Kantar Media's Campaign Media Analysis Group, which tracks political advertising.

And it is only going to grow more intense.

"These dollar figures we're talking about now are going to seem quaint in a few months," said Kenneth M. Goldstein, president of the analysis group. "And they'll seem really quaint in eight or nine months."

Total television advertising spending on the 2012 election cycle could top \$3 billion, up from \$2.1 billion four years ago, Kantar estimates, fueled in part by the rise of independent groups that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money on campaigns.

Candidates have previously tended to use their early advertising to introduce themselves to voters in gauzy terms. But this time around, Obama's oppo-

so early also carries substantial risks. One is that many voters are not yet paying much attention to the campaign and will not do so until much closer to next November, meaning the advertising expenditures could be largely wasted. And negative messages now could alienate moderate and independent voters who blame excessive partisanship for Washington's troubles in addressing the nation's big problems. Still, the Republican candidates seem eager to esca-

lieves Americans are lazy. And Romney edited a video clip to put in Obama's mouth a thought actually expressed by a supporter of Sen. John McCain in the 2008 presidential race, misleadingly suggesting that Obama believes he cannot win if he talks about the economy.

The White House and its allies have hardly been shy about going after the Republicans. Democrats have already run advertisements in Arizona, Iowa and South Carolina against Romney,

"This is asymmetric warfare," he said, "but we're pretty confident that we'll be more effective and more strategic in how we spend our money."

Crossroads GPS, a conservative advocacy group founded by Rove and other Republican strategists, has placed the biggest bet so far on negative messages. By its own count, it has spent about \$20 million this year on political advertising.

Much of it was broadcast during the debt-ceiling de-



plays a litany of depressing assertions about the economy. "Greatest jobs crisis since Great Depression. Record home foreclosures. Record national debt." And it renders judgment on Obama's presidency: "He promised he would fix the economy. He failed."

In the last six months, conservative groups like those affiliated with Karl Rove and

nents are betting they can employ early attacks to define a narrative about him at the very beginning of the election season, before Democrats fully unleash the hundreds of millions of dollars being raised by the president. Their perceived advantage: airwaves that are not yet clogged with competing political messages. But going negative

late the fight. Romney and Perry have both brushed off criticism that they deliberately distorted Obama's words in their most recent commercials — controversies that only brought them additional attention.

Perry took remarks by the president about the need to do more to lure foreign investment out of context to suggest that Obama be-

who, if he wins the nomination, will be the subject of an intense Democratic effort to show him as an unprincipled flip-flopper. Priorities USA Action, a pro-Obama group founded with the help of Bill Burton, a former White House spokesman, has spent almost a million dollars on television advertisements. Though Obama is all but certain to have a substantial fundraising advantage over his eventual Republican rival, Burton said that in the early going, when outside groups are playing a particularly prominent role in laying out the arguments on both sides, conservatives have a big lead over their liberal counterparts.

bate this summer, when it targeted members of Congress in their districts with advertisements that portrayed Democrats and Obama as fiscally irresponsible and unable to fix the economy.

In recent weeks, the group has taken on Obama and his economic agenda, spending \$2.6 million on a commercial that criticizes his support for an upper-income tax increase and suggests a split on the issue between Obama and former President Bill Clinton. It ends with a nod to the Republican line of attack that Democrats are inciting class warfare: "President Obama, it's time to attack problems, not people." □

Political television advertisements by Crossroad GPS, which suggest that President Barack Obama's support for a tax increase on the wealthy incites class warfare. Nearly a year before Election Day, Republican presidential candidates and conservative action groups are spending heavily on television advertising casting Obama as a failure, a move that carries substantial risks.

(Crossroad GPS via The New York Times)